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Morgan Stanley buys Koor stake

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Spring training roundup

World of Sport



U2's 'pop' goes to No. 1

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IDF soldiers beat a Palestinian demonstrator with a club yesterday during clashes in Hebron, in which 11 Palestinians were lightly injured. The soldiers used force against Palestinians who tried to stop bulldozers clearing the way for a new road from Kiryat Arba to the Israeli-controlled part of Hebron. About 100 Palestinians scuffled with some 150 soldiers, following Israel's decision to hand over another 9 percent of the West Bank, far less than demanded by the Palestinians. At least five Palestinians were detained, witnesses said. Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat said the peace talks were in a "real crisis." The IDF last night declared the area a closed military zone. Palestinians said the scuffles erupted when an Israeli bulldozer began ploughing through vineyards and almond and olive groves. (AP)

Clinton: Har Homa veto isn't approval

By HILLEL KUTTNER

WASHINGTON — US President Bill Clinton criticized the Har Homa construction plan again yesterday, and said the US's veto of the UN Security Council resolution against Israel's move "should not be interpreted as an approval of the decision that was made by the Israeli government."

Clinton acknowledged that he remains "very concerned" about how the veto is playing in the Arab world but emphasized that a fair look at the administration's record will prove that he has "worked very hard ... to be fair to the Palestinians and fair to all parties in the Middle East peace process."

"When [the parties] attempt to preclude the process of negotiations or preempt it or are insensitive to the needs and feelings of [others] in the negotiating process, more destructive things happen, and it becomes more difficult to make peace," Clinton said, during a news conference with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

"We believe it's our job to protect

Continued on Page 2

Druse shouldn't have to be gov't 'Shabbes goys' — Assad Assad

By HERIB KEMON

Who knows, it may go down as the Great Shabbos Goy Rebellion. Assad Assad, a former Likud MK, a former Labor and Social Affairs Minister, called yesterday for the disbandment of a unit in the Labor and Social Affairs Ministry that hands out summonses to businesses operating illegally on Shabbat.

"This group is giving all Druse a bad name," said Assad, a former Likud MK. "I have received dozens of phone calls from people asking me why the Druse are involved in this."

Since Shas took control of the ministry, Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai has breathed new life into this unit. Jews cannot be hired to patrol the streets on Shabbat looking for businesses violating the Sabbath, so the ministry employs Druse.

The result, said Assad, is that summonses for Shabbat violations have become linked in the public's mind with Druse supervisors — not exactly a sought-after association.

A non-Jew who does work proscribed for Jews on Shabbat has, throughout the ages, been known

as a *Shabbos goy*. The ministry's unit was established by former Agudat Yisrael deputy minister Moshe Feldman in the late 1980s, but was dormant under Ora Namir, the minister under the previous government.

"The Druse community needs to be in the consensus," Assad said. "We need to have good relations with both the religious and the secular. It is not right that because of four or five Druse in the unit, we get a bad name. We don't want to be the hated middleman."

Assad said he has no opposition to a Druse serving as a *Shabbos goy* in other circumstances — if someone needs to be driven to the hospital on Shabbat, for example. "But that is different," Assad said. "In those cases there are no arguments or disagreements."

Assad said he asked the Druse supervisor of the ministry unit to disband it, but said he was told by the supervisor that he is just doing what he is told.

Assad dismissed claims by ministry officials that the unit is actually good for the Druse, because it provides employment. There are other ways to provide employment, Assad said. But ministry spokesman Zvi Rosen dismissed Assad's complaints. "Just as Beduin serve as trackers in the army because they are better qualified for the work, so Druse are able to do things on Shabbat that Jews can't," Rosen said.

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NEWS

in brief

Army suspends spokesman for territories

The army has temporarily suspended the spokesman for the Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories on suspicion he leaked classified information. The army said military police also had opened an investigation against spokesman Shlomo Dror. He is suspected of leaking the classified information over a long period of time, the IDF said.

"Because of the gravity of the suspicions he was temporarily suspended," an army statement said.

Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak informed Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai of the incident. *Archie O'Sullivan*

PA frees top Hamas leader

Palestinian police freed a top Hamas leader yesterday in an apparent goodwill gesture, Hamas sources said. They said Ibrahim Maqadmeh, who led a secret network within Hamas dedicated to attacks against Israel and weakening the PA, was freed on orders from Yasser Arafat.

Palestinian security officials declined to comment on the report.

Palestinians said Maqadmeh operated the "Secret Apparatus" network controlled by Hamas leaders abroad before he was arrested last year during a sweep against Hamas in the wake of suicide bombings in Israel in February and March. *Reuters*

Arabs ask for UN debate on settlements

Arab envoys moved yesterday to rally international support against Israel's settlement policy after Washington vetoed a Security Council resolution criticizing Israel's plans to build Jewish housing on Har Homa, in southern Jerusalem.

The chairman of the Arab group of UN ambassadors, Nasser bin Hamad al-Khalifa, wrote to the General Assembly president, Razali Ismail of Malaysia, seeking a meeting on the issue.

An aide to Razali said the General Assembly had scheduled the meeting for tomorrow. The United States has no veto in the General Assembly. *AP*

Young bicyclist killed

Beni Mentaka, 13, was hit by a bus and killed yesterday afternoon while he was crossing a road near Rishon LeZion on his bicycle. He was brought to Assaf Harofeh Hospital in Tzrifin, where he was declared dead. Police are investigating the cause of the accident. *Itim*

Man dies in train accident

A Petah Tikva man was hit and killed by a passenger train near Kfar Syrkin yesterday afternoon. Police said it appears that the 47-year-old man committed suicide. Despite a warning siren, he apparently forced his way through a barricade onto the tracks before the oncoming train, which did not manage to stop in time. *Itim*

Beersheba girl Miss Israel

Mirit Greenberg, 18, of Beersheba, beat out 19 other contestants last night to be named this year's Miss Israel. First runner-up was Dikla Hamdi, 18, also of Beersheba.

The contest was held at the Cinemas in Tel Aviv. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

Winning cards

In yesterday's Chance drawing, the winning cards were the nine of spades, king of hearts, ace of diamonds and queen of clubs.

CLINTON

Continued from Page 1

the final-status issues for the final-status negotiations," he said.

The Har Homa controversy was the focus of the more than three hours of Clinton-Mubarak talks. Mubarak joined Clinton in opposing the Israeli decision, calling such actions "flagrant violations" of

Israeli-Palestinian accords. In his opening statement at the news conference that followed their luncheon meeting, Mubarak spoke on behalf of Syrian President Hafez Assad, calling Damascus's demand for the suspended peace talks to resume where they left off "not without justification."

Clinton said there exists "at least a potential" for those talks to resume, and added that he and Mubarak would seek to encourage that.

We sorrowfully announce the death of ESTHER PASSMAN EPSTEIN

The funeral will take place today, Tuesday, March 11, 1997, at 12 noon, at the Sanhedria cemetery, Jerusalem.

David and Deanna Epstein and family

We mourn the death of our beloved nephew and cousin

RABBI YITZHAK ISAACSON

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Our deepest condolences to

Sam Sebba

on the loss of his wife

BELLA

Batya and Elie Borowski
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MKs pay visit to Orient House

By URIEL HEILMAN

A Knesset Interior Committee delegation visited Orient House yesterday to assess Palestinian Authority activity in eastern Jerusalem.

"We wanted to see which offices have been closed and what are the reasons for their closure," said committee chairman Salih Tarif (Labor), who organized the fact-finding mission.

They were met outside Orient House by Israeli protesters, who chanted slogans at the MKs.

The delegation, including Tarif, Labor MK Micha Goldmann and Democratic Arab Party MK Tawfik Khatib, met with Faisal Hussein, who holds the PA's Jerusalem portfolio. "These institutions have no connection with the Palestinian Authority. Binyamin Netanyahu simply is doing things that are bringing us closer to an explosion," Hussein said.

"We will not be able to accept such decisions of closing institutions that are serving the Palestinians here," he added, warning that "the Palestinian people are not able to wait anymore."

Molodet MK Benny Elon, who met the delegation at the entrance to Orient House, said he would not enter until the Palestinian flag hanging over the door was removed.

"These institutions are illegal," he said, chastising his fellow MKs for coming to a Palestinian institu-



Members of the Women in Green Jerusalem yesterday.

tion whose existence "is a crime against the Oslo agreement. They are cooperating with the enemy."

After the Orient House meeting, the delegation toured one of the Palestinian offices that is slated for closure.

ANALYSIS

Peace talks crisis

By JON IMMANUEL

The crisis which is now besetting the peace talks has several origins and several purposes.

It started with the government's decision to build on Har Homa. It continued with the US decision to veto a UN Security Council resolution condemning the decision. It worsened with the government's decision to close four Palestinian offices in Jerusalem and then redeploy from only 2% of Area C. The Palestinian Authority considers redeployment from Area C the only genuine redeployment, since Area B is largely in its hands already.

The purpose is to draw in the US as a more active partner in the peace process. The European Union and the UN would willingly follow.

Unlike the crisis which erupted after the opening of the Western Wall Tunnel exit, this one has started from the top. It has not touched ordinary people in the same visceral way. It has not been violent, but it is clear it could become

so with the right spark, of bulldozers on Har unforseen.

It is a crisis over the Oslo Accords, rather than the Oslo Accords, rather than the Oslo Accords.

The government can do one of the three actions it has decided on: it can accept the accords as being interpreted in a possible way, according to the spirit of the accords.

When the Oslo Accords were signed, Labor Party officials sketched. The intention would fill in the gaps.

There is no doubt that the US suggested to President Clinton sharing on Har Homa. Chairman Yasser Arafat he can to bring his intention.

The US suggested to consider a 10% redeployment.

BACKGROUND

US backs Israel's right to designate extent of pullbacks

By DAVID MAKOVSKY

Palestinians are calling the government's 9.1 percent pullback too small and complaining that it occurred without prior negotiations. However, the government's right to act on its own in this case is in accordance with the letter of the US interpretation of Oslo.

Both the 1993 Oslo Declaration of Principles and the 1995 Oslo II agreement say that during the interim period Israel will pullback its troops in the West Bank to settlements, borders and "specified military locations." Oslo II set forth three phases of pullbacks and, according to the recently signed Hebron accord, those pullbacks are to be concluded in mid-1998.

Oslo negotiator and then Foreign Ministry legal adviser Joel Singer believed it always was clear that Israel was the one which "specified" what its military locations were. Otherwise the documents would have read "agreed" military locations.

The Palestinians contested this. However, so as to avoid doubt and in an apparent trade-off for Hebron concessions, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu extracted a letter from then-secretary of state Warren Christopher designed to end the ambiguity about this section. While such a designation was implied by Oslo, it was never stated explicitly nor - until January - did this interpretation have a US endorsement.

Christopher wrote, "I have advised Chairman Arafat of US views on Israel's process of redeploying its forces, designating specified military locations and transferring additional powers and responsibilities to the

Palestinian Authority." US ambassador Martin Indyk was even more blunt. In an interview on Israel Radio after the Hebron accord, Indyk declared, "It's clear in the agreement that Israel designates the specified military locations. So the amount of territory that is handed over is Israel's decision."

Hence, Israel feels it need not accept Palestinian insistence that it yield up to 90% of the West Bank by mid-1998.

Incidentally, there seems to be no basis to the Palestinian claim that at each pullback Israel should yield equal thirds of all territory to be yielded by the end of third pullback.

Despite the US recognition that Israel can designate what it considers a military location, Netanyahu aides acknowledge this cannot be construed as a blank check.

In his meeting with Netanyahu last month, US President Bill Clinton said the pullback must be "credible" and his aides subsequently called upon Israel to yield 10%. In other words, while Israel must not necessarily accept Palestinian expectations of the land to be yielded, it must reflect a standard of plausibility in any definition of what Israel needs for security purposes during the interim period.

Several ministers are guided by an IDF map, which says that Israel has interests in 52% of the West Bank ranging from security to water concerns.

The irony is that while the Christopher letter makes clear that Israel can designate the territories ceded and not the Palestinians, in practice, it is clear from last week's action that the US will be the arbiter of whether Israel has met the test of reasonableness.

claimed responsibility for the attack, according to IDF sources.

According to the sources, the troops spotted the vehicle, which was parked not far from a house on the outskirts of Tel al-Kaba village, just south of Markabeh in the zone's eastern sector.

The precautions taken by the soldiers prompted the perpetrators to detonate the device prematurely, while the troops were still over 200 meters away.

Nevertheless, shrapnel and apparently metal ball bearings fired into the device to make it more deadly, were scattered over a wide area and an IDF soldier was hit.

Senior sources in Northern Command stressed that Hizbullah's abortive attempt, which had apparently been intended as a spectacular bomb attack, had occurred in a populated area in broad daylight on a busy main route used by local residents and had clearly endangered their lives.

The road on which the attack occurred is virtually opposite Moshav Margaliyot, about three kilometers west of Kiryat Shmona.

The sources revealed that the white Mercedes car used for the attack had been stolen earlier from a resident of another part of the zone.

Furthermore, it transpired that the perpetrators had taken over a nearby house and observed the IDF and SLA troops, biding their time to detonate the huge car bomb.

Kamel Hajjeh, from the Beduin village Beit Zazir in lower Galilee, was working with a tractor near the border fence shortly before the explosion around 2 p.m.

"I saw somebody running towards the wadi below and then I lost sight

gunners returned fire.

The wounded soldier was evacuated by helicopter to Haifa's Rambam Hospital. Deputy hospital director Dr. Zvi Ben-Ishai said the soldier was suffering from wounds to his shoulder and chest.

The IDF infantry troops had been on patrol in the area when they spotted the suspicious car, which was also seen by SLA troops on operational duties in the same area at the time.

In a separate incident yesterday - apparently another failed Hizbullah operation - two Lebanese policemen were injured in a roadside bomb blast west of Jezzine township. The bomb had apparently been intended for SLA troops.

Meanwhile, Hizbullah announced on its Manar television station that the attack on a Merkava tank near the IDF's Rehman position in the zone's eastern sector on Sunday was carried out by the organization's "tank sniper unit." A member of the tank crew was very lightly wounded in the incident.

It is the first time that Hizbullah's fighting arm, the Islamic Resistance, has announced the existence of a unit equipped and apparently specially trained in the use of anti-tank missiles.

because it had been confused with the Office for Small Projects. The Committee for the Wounded, which is slated to be closed, had no notice on its door because it could not be located.

Boulos argued that police claims that these four institutions were either run or financed by the PA were incorrect.

He produced receipts to show that the Welfare and Development Committee is financed by the Welfare Association in Geneva and the Islamic Bank in London to the tune of \$2 million a year. It is registered in Israel. However, the police also noted that Hassan Tahboub, currently Wafk minister in the PA, heads the office.

Boulos argued that Tahboub headed the organization, formed in early 1993, before becoming a minister, and that while the fact that he is a minister has nothing to do with his running of the office, he could be asked to resign rather than close the office.

He said it is "not linked to the Islamic Committee" that joined with the PA in an anti-settlement protest in Gaza on Sunday. Boulos said he knows nothing about the Office of National Institutions.

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مركز من الأخبار

PM, coalition members meet

By LIAT COLLINS

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu met with coalition faction heads, MKs and ministers in the Knesset yesterday before leaving for Moscow. The meetings were the initiative of coalition faction chairman Michael Eitan, who said the coalition is on the verge of collapse.

The prime minister told the MKs that the western world and Palestinians "now understand there is a new government in Israel which will protect Israel's interests, but only here people don't understand it."

"We have a good government and any change in it will not be in Israel's best interests," Netanyahu said, according to an official briefing.

Eitan attacked the members of the Land of Israel Front, who have boycotted plenum meetings over

the government's policies in Jerusalem and the redeployment, allowing opposition bills to pass in their absence. Eitan said some of the front's members have not even visited Judea and Samaria.

Netanyahu reported on his conversation with Foreign Minister David Levy after Palestinian Authority negotiator Abu Mazen resigned from leading the talks with Israel.

"The Palestinians have understood that we will build in Jerusalem," Netanyahu said, citing the resignation as proof that the Palestinians realize the difference of having a nationalist government in power.

It was decided to hold meetings among the coalition once a fortnight to give the MKs a greater feeling of participation.

Most of the ministers and MKs at the meeting expressed support

Coalition Crisis

for the government, saying there was no better alternative. They also mostly rejected mooted changes to the Basic Law: The Government, popularly known as the Direct Election Law. Any change in the Direct Election Law should only come into effect in the next Knesset, according to most of the speakers.

Education Minister Zevulun Hammer (NRP), Deputy Housing Minister Meir Porush (United Torah Judaism) and Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai (Shas) and Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky (Yisrael Ba'aliya) all expressed support for

the government and premier. However, Porush and Yishai also stressed the importance of the Conversion Law, saying it could cause a new coalition crisis on religious lines.

The Land of Israel Front, led by MK Michael Kleiner (Geshet), also met yesterday to formulate its next steps and try to create a unified stand on possible changes to the direct election law. Under the current system, a 61 MK majority in the prime minister means the government falls and new elections must be held for both the premiership and the Knesset.

Kleiner said after the meeting that front members intend to continue holding fact-finding tours during plenum hours. This Wednesday they are expected to visit Gush Etzion and Hebron. The front and members of extra-parliamentary

hard-line groups against the government's policies are planning a large demonstration next week.

At their meeting, the front members criticized, among others, the Third Way. The Third Way's insistence on maintaining Israeli control of the entire Jordan Valley and Judean Desert meant that the prime minister was forced to give up other vital areas of Judea and Samaria in an effort to please the US, front members charged.

Third Way faction chairman Yehuda Harel returned the attack, calling the front "pathetic."

"There are those in the coalition who are trying to torpedo the Oslo agreements and see the solution as war," he said.

Harel added that hawkish opposition to the Madrid peace conference brought down the last Likud government.

Lynn: Without Direct Election Law there would be anarchy

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

If it wasn't for the Direct Election Law, Israel would be experiencing such political anarchy today that the "stinking maneuver" of 1990 would pale by comparison, attorney Uriel Lynn, former chairman of the Knesset Law Committee, said yesterday.

Lynn, a former Likud MK, spearheaded the initiative for the change in the Basic Law: The Government and is largely responsible for its passage in March 1992.

"The law was intended to achieve one central purpose: Stability of government. It's an excellent law, without which complete anarchy would reign, even worse than the situation on the eve of the 'stinking maneuver,'" Lynn said, referring to Labor's failed attempt in the spring of 1990 to form an alternative to the national unity government.

He noted the law achieved its goal and "today the extortion power of the smaller coalition partners is much smaller than in the past. Since we have a coalition system of government built on parties, we couldn't do away with them altogether. But we did reduce their power of extortion. People forget how it used to be, all means were kosher to take over power, constant undermining, extortion, wheeling and dealing."

"We forget what agreements were signed with the small parties, Labor's agreement with Agudat Yisrael in April 1990, the agreement with MK Avraham Shari (who almost crossed the line from the Likud-Liberals to Labor). Yitzhak Moda'i's demand for financial guarantees for joining Shamir's coalition and Shas's crazy ballet, when it abstained from supporting the government. Why, Labor even promised Aryeh Dedi the post of finance minister."

Lynn added that many of the MKs criticizing the Direct Election Law today strongly supported it at the time, and in the Left there was hardly anyone who opposed it.

He called the right-wing MKs acting to change the law "political suicides. They will ruin the government, their movement will be wiped out and they will hand the government back to [Labor leader Shimon] Peres and Beitim. What alternative does the right-



Uriel Lynn

wing have? Granted, the law does hurt the parties, but the issue is which political movement is running the state."

Lynn said changing the law so that the prime minister could be removed without dissolving the Knesset would be unconstitutional and a violation of the people's will.

"I'm sure it would be disqualified by the High Court of Justice. The Knesset did not elect the prime minister, the people did, and the MKs can't topple the prime minister by means of tricks, taking advantage of political conjectures and adventurism. A situation in which 61 MKs can, in certain circumstances, topple the government, is exactly what the Direct Election Law meant to prevent. If the issue is so crucial, they must act responsibly and be willing to dissolve the Knesset and go to general elections," Lynn said.

Despite complaints that the law weakens the Knesset and gives the prime minister too much power, Lynn said the law does have checks and balances. He noted the Knesset has considerable power in legislation and the implementation of international agreements, the authority to enact emergency amendments, to make the prime minister appear in the plenum and to fire an individual minister.

He added that by passing various basic laws, including the Basic Law: Human Dignity and Freedom of Occupation, which he also promoted, "we in fact have a constitution. The High Court of Justice gives such a broad interpretation to the human rights [laws] that the political system needs no further changes."

Yahalom: NRP must leave coalition

By LIAT COLLINS

Knesset Law Committee Chairman Shaul Yahalom (National Religious Party) is demanding the NRP leave the coalition and present an alternative candidate as prime minister. He did not suggest a candidate.

At the NRP's faction meeting yesterday, he said that if the NRP did not take such measures, a party would be created to the right of it, like Tehiya grew up to the right of the Likud over the Camp David Agreements.

The discussion is scheduled to continue today.

Party leader and Education Minister Zevulun Hammer objected to Yahalom's suggestion and stressed that there is no better government, although he is demanding a "serious discussion with the prime minister on the two remaining further redeployments."

Hammer called for an end to the threats on Benjamin Netanyahu's government.

"Anyone who proposes toppling this government is likely to get

instead one which will act completely against our interests," Hammer said.

Yahalom complained that the NRP does not have "even minimal influence because the prime minister is locked on one concept." He noted that Netanyahu has not called coalition and Likud faction chairman Michael Eitan to order despite his talks with Labor MK Yossi Beilin on the permanent arrangements.

MK Zvi Hendel criticized the premier for accepting the scope of the first redeployment.

"If that was 'minimal' withdrawal, what will be after the third one?" Hendel asked.

Deputy Religious Affairs Minister Yigal Bibi said he "has complaints from here to eternity about Netanyahu," but called for restraint.

Gadi Eshel, the leader of a group of secular NRP supporters, also called on the party to immediately leave the coalition.

"Netanyahu is a scoundrel of world order. In the end he will agree to a Palestinian state," he said.

Peres denies plans for unity gov't

By LIAT COLLINS

The Labor faction meeting in the Knesset yesterday was marked by a bitter exchange between party leader Shimon Peres and MK Hagai Merom, who accused Peres of heading toward a national unity government.

"Nobody has proposed a national unity government with Labor. And Labor hasn't suggested it. There is no such proposal," said Peres.

"What's happening right now is that the peace process is in a serious and unprecedented crisis. Our work is going down the drain. And we're busy [fighting] one another. Each one is sticking a spoke in the other's wheels, like little children, bickering and squabbling," said Peres.

When Merom accused Peres of aiming for a national unity government, Peres could barely control his anger and fumed: "I was chosen by 1.5 million people, more than you, and I don't need your permission to speak. Who put you up on high? [a play on the meaning of Merom's name.] You're just a party member like any other. You describe us as bankrupt, armless and legless, all in an attempt to grab headlines."



Shimon Peres

Peres stressed that the Labor Party's main goal now is to topple the government at the first opportunity. He added, however, that if a proposal for a national unity government were raised it would be discussed.

Peres said he supported the attempts by faction chairman Ra'anan Cohen and Moshe Shahal to amend the direct election law, so a successful no-confidence motion would entail only elections for the premier and not for the Knesset, as required by the current system.

Yossi Beilin, a candidate for the Labor Party leadership, also sup-

ported the proposed changes. But others - including Micha Goldman, Elie Goldschmidt, Avraham Shohat and Uzi Baram - vehemently objected to the changes. Goldschmidt said the faction did not have the right to act to amend the law as it was supported by the Labor Party as a whole and any change should be approved by the party.

Cohen met with NRP MKs in the morning to discuss the possible amendment of the direct election law.

He also met with Likud MK David Re'em, who has been particularly critical of the prime minister lately, to persuade him to support the changes.

Amnon Rubinstein (Meretz), on the other hand, denounced the efforts to change the direct election law, saying it would make it empty and meaningless. He said it should not be possible to replace the prime minister without dissolving the Knesset.

He criticized the Labor MKs who are calling for the change, accusing them of joining up with the "anti-peace forces" to oust Netanyahu. "The system of government is not a car - you don't change it every year," Rubinstein told reporters.

Land of Israel Front protests PA maps

By LIAT COLLINS

Maps of "Palestine," including all of Israel and the territories, appear frequently in the Palestinian media and are a sign that the Palestinians will not be satisfied with just Judea, Samaria and Gaza, MK Michael Kleiner (Geshet) said yesterday.

Kleiner and members of the Land of Israel Front in the Knesset met yesterday with an Israeli group which monitors Palestinian communications - Palestinian Media Review - to hear a report and watch video material in which maps including Israel appear prominently, usually in the colors of the

Palestinian flag, at official Palestinian Authority events. Among the images presented by the group were the face of a child superimposed on a map, itself superimposed on a picture of Temple Mount; an embroidered map from an art show in Gaza that was attended by Yasser Arafat's wife, Suha; a

map chosen by Palestinian Television as the background for an interview with relatives of a terrorist in an Israeli prison; the map, including Israel, used as background, for an interview between Arafat and the Japanese ambassador last month; and key rings, badges and jewelry in the shape of the map of Israel in red,

green, white and black on sale in the Old City in Jerusalem.

The Review's Itamar Marcus also noted memorials to the Intifada in the autonomous areas.

Kleiner says the use of such maps "shows what the Palestinians want. It is piece by piece not peace after peace."

AT THE KNESSET

Ravitz receives death threat

By LIAT COLLINS

Knesset Finance Committee Chairman Avraham Ravitz (United Torah Judaism) has received a death threat in the mail. The letter includes a drawing of a distorted swastika and is signed: "The Israeli Nazi Movement."

"We will soon murder you and hang you. The Israeli Nazi Movement was founded to solve the haredi problem. The final goal: to destroy the primitive and extremist haredi public. Be warned because you are now in our target sights. We will kill you - we will skin you and burn you," the typed letter said.

The letter ended: "Long live Yigal Amir's way - the way of the revolver and murder - it's what you raised and what we will use against you." The letter was forwarded to the police for investigation.

Panel rejects bill barring Amir pardon
The ministerial committee on legislation has opposed a bill by MK Eitan Cabel (Labor) under which there would be no possibility of an eventual presidential pardon for Yitzhak Rabin's assassin, Yigal Amir. The committee did not explain its reasoning although it is believed to have based the objection on the fact that it would violate the principle of equality and make a prime minister more favored in the eyes of

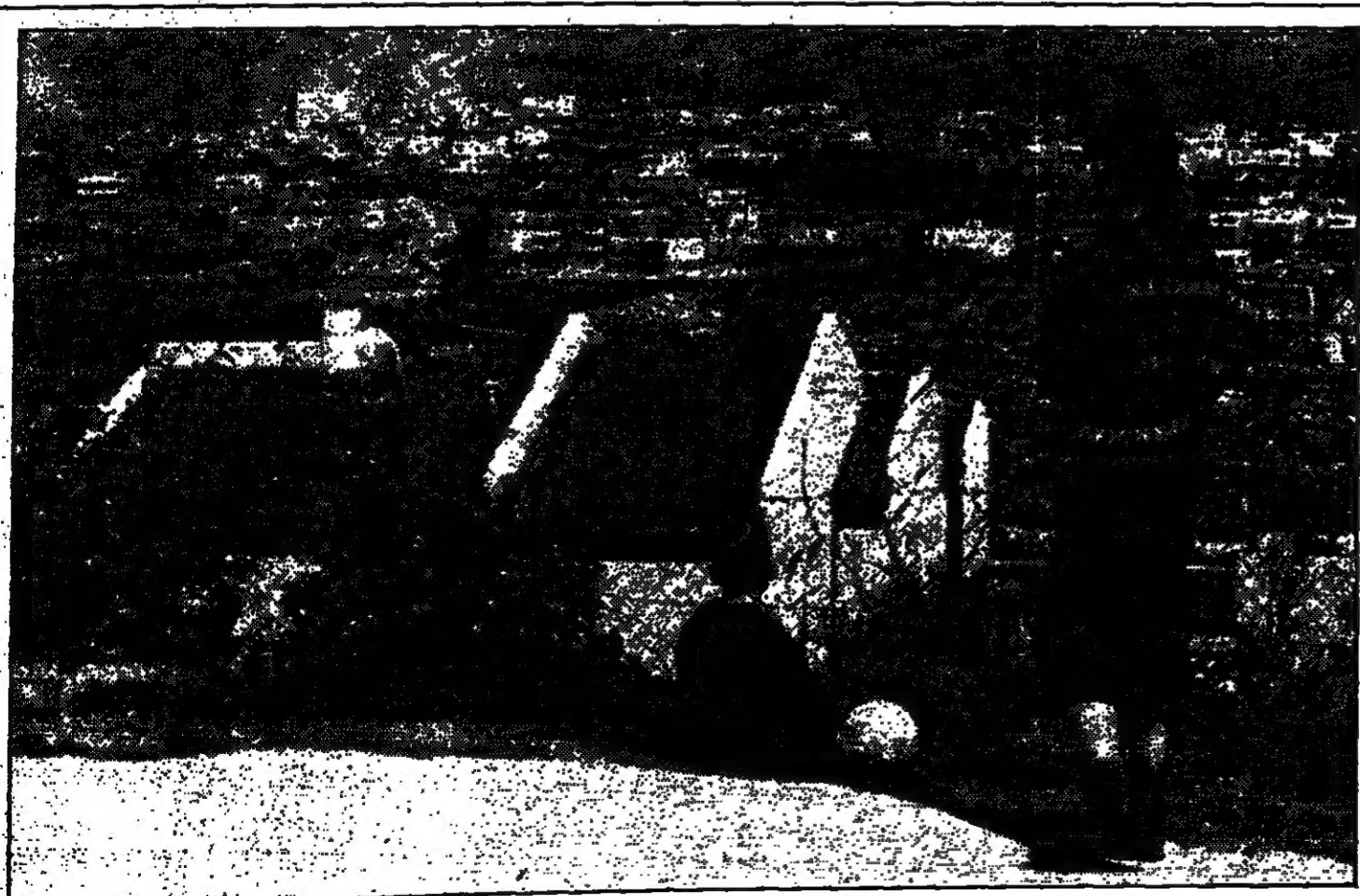
the law. Cabel said the rejection showed that the government did not rule out a pardon for Amir in the future.

Law banning ATVs on bathing beaches passes
The Knesset last night passed the second and final readings of a bill banning ATVs (all-terrain vehicles) from driving on bathing beaches. The bill was submitted by Dedi Zucker (Meretz). Punishment for violating the law is a NIS 60,000 fine or six months' imprisonment. It will be enforced by municipal inspectors.

There have been a number fatal accidents, including the deaths of two children, caused by wild driving of ATVs on beaches.

Barak wants easy Hebrew news broadcasts back
MK Ehud Barak (Labor) has sent a letter of complaint to the director of Israel Radio, Amnon Nadav, over a decision to scrap the news broadcasts in easy Hebrew on the immigrants' station, Reka.

Barak said he understood the decision was made out of financial considerations and not with intent to harm the immigrants, but asked it be reconsidered. Barak said the easy Hebrew broadcast was an important means of teaching Hebrew and helping immigrants integrate "particularly in a country where the news has special significance."



Orit and Ariad Breuer look out on Beit Umar from their settlement of Karmei Tzur.

Karmei Tzur to retain control of road

By MARGOT DUKKEVITCH

Karmei Tzur, a settlement sandwiched between Beit Umar and Ralhoul, has won the first round in the battle against further IDF pullbacks from the West Bank.

When speculation began a few weeks ago about which areas in Judea and Samaria would be handed over to the Palestinian Authority under the first of three additional withdrawals, residents of the 70-family settlement sprang into action. They set up a committee of six volunteers, who started campaigning against putting the road leading to their settlement and the surrounding land under exclusive PA control.

According to Karmei Tzur activist Esti Uziel, the settlement's members began lobbying Knesset members and officials in the Defense Ministry to prevent the change in status.

Pullback Phase 1

On Sunday, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai visited Karmei Tzur and assured the settlers that the 1.5 km. road leading to the settlement would remain in Area C, which is under exclusive Israeli control.

"We haven't received anything in writing," Uziel said, "but we are relieved that we managed to stave off the changes we feared."

Uziel stressed, however, that the settlement's residents wouldn't let up until the remaining 7 km. of the Ralhoul bypass road

is built. The former government, she said, agreed to the road, which is to bypass the Beit Umar village and the El-Arub refugee camp, and join up to Highway 60.

"It will enable us to be directly linked to Gush Etzion as well as Hebron and will prevent our settlement from turning into an enclave," she said.

Almost daily, she said, the school buses - accompanied by an IDF jeep to and from the settlement - are stoned.

Uziel charged that government officials and IDF officers who consider the pullbacks tend to forget that settlements don't have to be surrounded by barbed wire and tanks.

"They should listen to the women and mothers who understand how important it is for any settlement to develop and expand," she said. "They don't have any foresight when it comes to planning."



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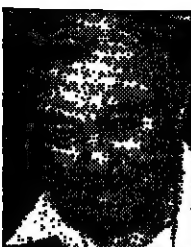
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NEWS

in brief

Kollek admitted to hospital

Former Jerusalem mayor Teddy Kollek was in good condition yesterday at Hadassah-University Hospital, Ein Kerem, where he is being treated for pneumonia. His doctor said that the 85-year-old Kollek did not have anything seriously wrong with him, but because of his age he was put under supervision in the internal medicine department. If there are no complications, he is due to be discharged within a few days.



Teddy Kollek
(Debbi Cooper)

MDA urges caution to prevent Purim injuries

Purim is two weeks away, but an 11-year-old Nahariya boy has already been injured by fireworks, losing two fingers in an explosion.

Magen David Adom has warned parents and teachers to supervise children and ensure that they are very careful with explosives, sprays and inflammable costumes. MDA urges parents not to make or buy costumes with cotton wool, paper, plastic, Dacron or other flammable materials. If a child must wear a costume that can easily ignite, it should be easy to remove. MDA says children should be warned beforehand about the risks of getting near fire, heat or sparks from cap guns.

If the costume is set afire, tie the victim down, roll him in sand or earth or extinguish the fire with water or a wet blanket. The child's head must not be covered. Don't remove burnt clothing stuck to the skin or apply oily ointments; instead, cool the burns with water.

Judy Siegel

UNESCO to protect Jewish cultural property

Synagogues, cemeteries, and other Jewish cultural sites worldwide as well as art works will be provided with legal protection aimed at preserving them, according to an agreement reached between UNESCO Secretary-General Federico Mayor and Education Minister Zevulun Hammer yesterday.

Yitzhak Meir, the minister's adviser on international affairs, briefed Mayor on the threats to synagogues, Jewish libraries, cemeteries, books and art works by dealers, contractors and others. Hammer pointed out that Islamic sites enjoy protection, and Mayor agreed to the request.

Aryeh Dean Cohen

Ministry approves new teaching initiative

A new educational project bringing together observant and non-observant teachers to study Judaism and democracy has been approved by Education Minister Zevulun Hammer. The Yad Eilat program will include five meetings between the teachers and principals, to discuss such subjects as Judaism's Struggles with Challenges of the Modern World, and Tolerance and Pluralism as Possible Solutions for Polarization.

Aryeh Dean Cohen

Study: Sleep apnea can be inherited

Researchers at the Technion's sleep laboratory have discovered that sleep apnea syndrome, a potentially fatal condition that affects five to nine percent of the adult population, may be passed on genetically. In sleep apnea, breathing is halted for split seconds or longer during sleep. Many victims snore heavily and are sleepy during the day, and are thus at risk of injury or death if they work with potentially dangerous machinery or if they drive. Senior sleep researcher Prof. Peretz Lavie reported on the findings at an international conference on sleep medicine that opened yesterday in Zichron Ya'acov.

Judy Siegel

JDC announces journalism award

The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) yesterday announced the establishment of an annual journalism award in Israel-Diaspora relations in honor of Boris Smolar, former editor-in-chief of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency and a longtime friend of the JDC. The first prize will be awarded this Passah for the best article, report, feature or news story on the subject of Israel-Diaspora relations to have been published or broadcast in Israel during the previous year. The prize carries a cash award of \$2,500, which is funded by a bequest from Smolar made expressly for this purpose.

Jerusalem Post Staff

93-year-old arrested for selling drugs

A 93-year-old Ashdod woman was arrested yesterday on suspicion of drug trafficking, after she sold two undercover policemen drugs. The woman had recently decided to sell drugs from her home to supplement her pension from the National Insurance Institute. Within days, police were informed that the woman was selling drugs to anyone who knocked on her door, and sent the two detectives to investigate.

Police said the woman would probably be released and not charged due to her advanced age and ill health.

Itim

Haifa Chemicals strike ends

By DAVID RUDGE

One of the longest-running industrial disputes in the country's history came to an end last night with the signing of a new collective labor agreement between management and workers of the Haifa Chemicals bayside complex and the Histadrut.

The signing ceremony, at the Histadrut's Haifa and district branch headquarters, will allow the reopening today of the plant, where production has been at a complete standstill since October.

It was made possible by a secret ballot vote at a mass meeting of workers outside the factory gates yesterday; 264 voted for the draft accord reached between Histadrut officials and management, 102 voted against and one abstained. However, dozens of the factory's 500 employees decided not to participate in the vote.

"I walked out because I didn't want to have to vote for something that may get me

fired or lose me money if I remained, or vote against it and risk not getting severance pay if the strike continued," one worker said after the meeting.

Under the accord, 60 of the workers will take early retirement, 55 will be dismissed with preferential redundancy terms and 20 will switch to personal contracts.

The remaining workers will be expected to accept cuts in social and welfare benefits that will reduce their overall salaries by as much as 17 percent.

The workers committee had originally opposed the agreement, primarily because of a clause which would have enabled management to cancel the accord within six months in the event of disruptions due to renewed industrial unrest.

Management agreed to drop the clause and the amended agreement was put to the ballot with the support of the workers committee and senior Histadrut officials, including Chairman MK Amir Peretz, who

addressed the meeting yesterday morning. The Histadrut officials said the new three-year collective labor agreement was the best deal that could be achieved under the circumstances.

Some of the workers shouted that it still constituted a sell out which the Histadrut was forcing on them, but there was no overturning of tables and chairs as occurred at the meeting last Thursday when the workers committee opposed the accord.

Peretz stressed that the ballot on the agreement also was a vote of trust in the Histadrut, the Haifa branch and himself.

Management spokesman Eitan Loewenstein said after the vote that the agreement would allow Haifa Chemicals management, in cooperation with the workers, to implement efficiency measures and thereby enable the company to compete with changing conditions on the world market.

"It is a balanced agreement which considers the needs of the workers and their wel-

fare while taking into account the economic targets which the company has set itself," Loewenstein said.

"We hope that this new collective agreement will mark a new chapter in cooperation between workers and management to promote and maintain the success of the company."

"Big efforts will now be required — jointly by management and employees — to resume manufacturing and marketing of the firm's products in order to ensure Haifa Chemicals' part in the world market for potassium nitrate," he added.

Ironically, shortly after the results of the workers' ballot were announced, the workers committee of the Histadrut's Haifa and district branch declared a strike because the union's head office had not sent enough money to pay the February salaries of the branch's 130 employees. However, the strike committee agreed to open the doors of the Haifa branch offices for the Haifa Chemicals' signing ceremony.

Pirate broadcasts continue to disrupt air traffic

Only two planes were allowed into Ben-Gurion Airport's airspace at one time yesterday evening, after interference with ground-to-air communications continued despite the closure earlier in the day of two pirate radio stations.

The restrictions caused disruptions in flight schedules, with take-offs the most affected. By late last night, the order was canceled, and the airwave disruptions subsided, and flight schedules were back to normal.

Haifa police and Communications Ministry inspectors raided pirate radio stations on the Carmel early yesterday morning.

Police, with the help of a Bezeq mobile detection unit, found two radio stations illegally broadcasting from a house in the Druse village of Ushiya, police spokeswoman Shlomit Minkovsky said.

The stations were shut down, the owners questioned, and equipment

confiscated, she said. Pilots were hearing music in the middle of instructions from the control tower to incoming and outgoing airplanes, airport officials said.

Avi Hachohen, chairman of the Air Traffic Controllers Union, said the traffic controllers have to constantly change the frequencies they use, in an attempt to avoid such interference. "This is no way to run a control system," he said.

After receiving a complaint from the Airports Authority, police obtained a search warrant Sunday night from Haifa Magistrate's Court.

Transportation Minister Yitzhak Levy pledged to crack down on pirate stations, but said that he would not hesitate to shut down the airport to avoid a disaster.

Last year, pirate radio transmissions forced Ben-Gurion Airport to shut down briefly. The government promised then to crack down on such broadcasts.

(Itim)

Medical breakthrough helps incontinent women

By JUDY SIEGEL

Remote-control devices open car doors and turn on the TV, video and air conditioner. Now doctors in Haifa are using them to meet an entirely different need: helping women with atonic bladders to urinate.

"Doctors around the world, from the US to Japan, are after me to hear more about our invention, which we regard as a breakthrough in treating this condition," says Dr. Ofer Nativ, a urologist at Bnei Zion Hospital and head of a team of physicians and engineers that developed the device.

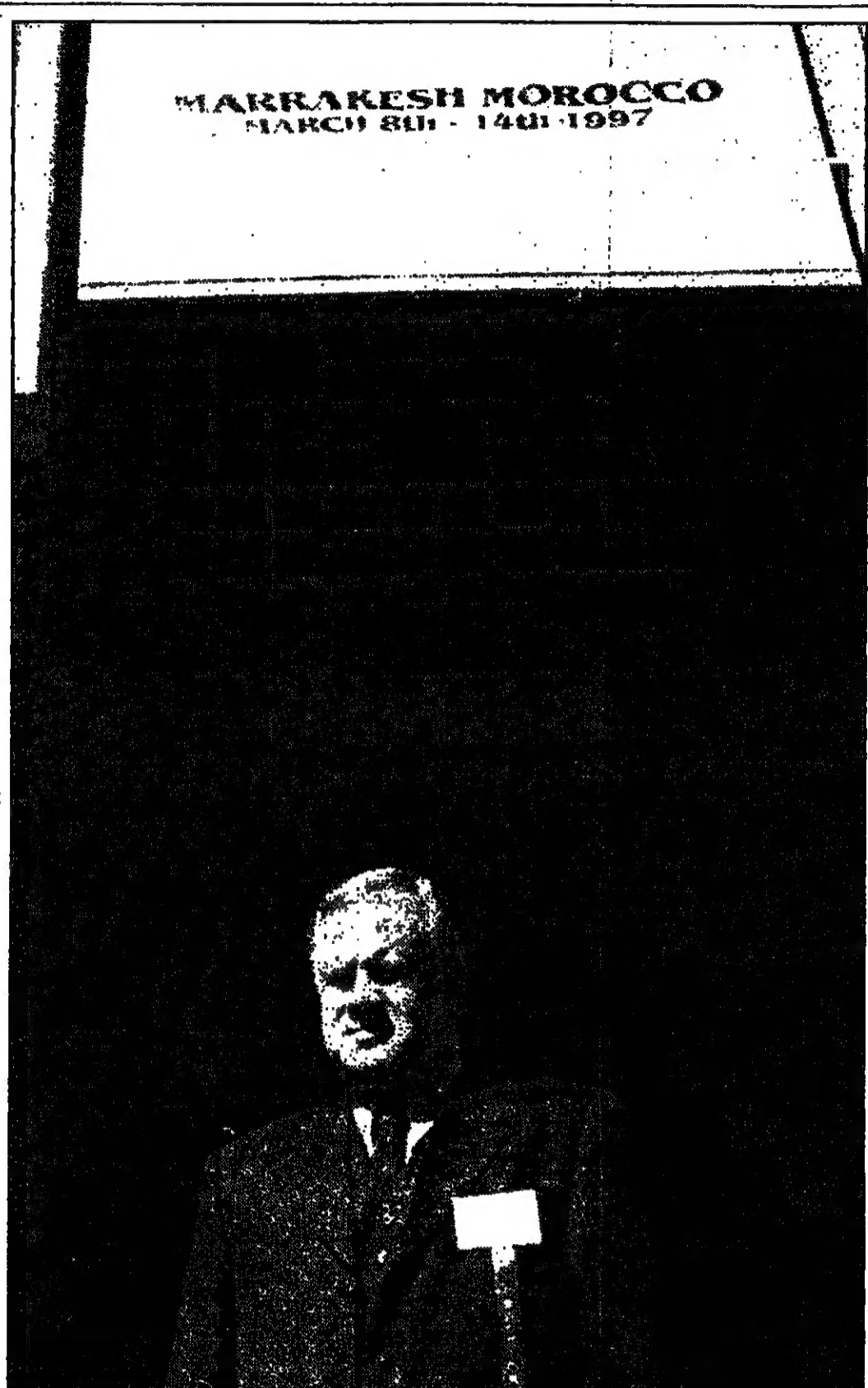
The invention is meant for women who were born without muscular control of their bladder, or who lost control due to neurological illnesses or traumatic injury.

The device, called the intra-urethral sphincter and pump prosthesis, draws urine from the bladder using a small pump that can remain in the woman's body for a month or more. Periodically, the

woman holds a cigar-shaped remote-control device — which contains a battery — next to her lower abdomen to activate a magnet that turns on the pump. When all the urine has emptied out, the device beeps.

"Without this device, women have to undergo the time-consuming, annoying, embarrassing and limiting procedure of inserting a catheter into their urethra five or six times a day to drain the urine," says Nativ. "In most cases, this is done by a specially trained person, and sometimes by the patient herself. If any residual urine remains in the bladder, infections or bleeding could result. Other patients have a stoma leading out of the abdomen and a urine-collection bag that must be emptied several times a day."

The battery is changed every few weeks, and the 2.5 cm. to 6 cm. silicone tube and pump are changed every four weeks to three months. In many cases, the patient herself can change them.



Professor opens conference

Prof. Daniel Weinstein, of Jerusalem's Hadassah-University Hospital, Ein Kerem, opens the first world conference on maternal mortality in Marrakesh yesterday. Doctors and medical specialists from 75 countries are attending the week-long conference that aims to reduce the number of women who die in childbirth each year from the current one million.

(Reuters)

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Combat troops to get combat pay earlier

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

In another effort to compensate combat soldiers, the IDF has decided to give them combat pay as soon as they complete basic training and not wait until after advanced training, as was the practice until now. The IDF Manpower branch recently decided upon this bonus, which is to be retroactive to the beginning of the year.

In real terms it means about another NIS 300 for qualified combat soldiers. Until now, soldiers had to wait, in some cases up to half their military service time, for their combat pay.

Advance training in some units can last up to a year and a half. In the infantry, soldiers become eligible for combat pay after 16 months, and in artillery and armor corps after a little less than a year.

The IDF said combat bonuses had been given after 75 months, but would now be paid after four. The retroactive payment will be made on April 1, the IDF said. The army reportedly made the decision in response to numerous requests from soldiers and their parents.

A soldier will forfeit his combat bonus if he leaves his unit for a non-combat one. Combat soldiers get some NIS 560 per month and non-combat soldiers get about NIS 260.

Journalist hijacks Taiwan airliner

TAIPEI (Reuters) - A jobless journalist yesterday doused himself with petrol in a Taiwanese airliner and hijacked it to China, where he complained of political repression by Taiwan and requested asylum, officials said.

The latest of 13 Taiwan Strait hijackings in the 1990s was novel in that it was the first in which a plane was forced to fly to the communist Chinese mainland rather than away from it.

The Far East Air Transport Boeing 757 had just left southern Kaohsiung bound for Taipei with 150 passengers and eight crew when a man drenched in gasoline threatened to immolate himself unless the pilot flew to China, officials and witnesses said.

Suspect Liu Shan-chung, 45, was arrested moments after the plane touched down at China's southeastern port of Xiamen. Air piracy is a capital offence on the Chinese mainland.

"I am a victim of political repression," the unemployed journalist said during the confrontation with the flight crew, according to chief flight attendant Kao Yung-chen.

"I've faced discrimination because I am a mainland-born Taiwanese," said Liu, who was born in China's Henan province and had a history of friction with co-workers as an adult in Taiwan.

Kao said Liu appeared calm and clear-minded, although he wept at times, saying it took him three days to decide on the action to call attention to his own plight.

Taiwan swiftly demanded Liu's extradition.

"We have legal jurisdiction,"

Justice Minister Liao Cheng-hao said even before the plane had returned. "The mainland authorities should return the hijacker immediately," passengers' papers were checked by Chinese officials but the plane was allowed to depart for Taipei after just two hours.

"The mainland authorities' handling of the affair was highly commendable," said Taiwan civil aviation chief Tsai Tui.

Taiwan defense officials said four fighters had scrambled into an escort formation and tailed the plane part of the way across the Taiwan Strait but pulled away to avoid a military "misunderstanding" with China's People's Liberation Army.

It was not immediately known how China's air force reacted. There was confusion over the plane's route back to Taiwan, a sensitive political issue in view of Taiwan's decades-old ban on direct flights and other direct contacts with communist China.

Airline president Lee Chung-ning said the pilot, at China's request, had flown directly to Taipei rather than diverting via Hong Kong or Macau air space — skipping a practice that Taipei had insisted on after previous hijackings to enforce its ban.

Civil aviation chief Tsai disagreed, saying the plane had come under Hong Kong air traffic control even if it did not overfly the British territory.

Pilot Yeh Teh-yung said Beijing had ordered the jet to fly directly to Taipei but that he had taken it briefly into Hong Kong's air traffic control zone.

Zaire rebels get by on discipline

By KARIN DAVIES

BUKAVU (AP) — Laurent Kabila says his rebellion to oust dictator Mobutu Sese Seko is advancing with astonishing speed because of shrewd strategy and the people's support.

"Anyone who doubts us doesn't know how we organize ourselves militarily and politically," Kabila said in an interview at rebel headquarters in Bukavu. And Kabila has his doubters. Some say he wants to get rich by exploiting Zaire's resources, as Mobutu did. Others say his rebels, many of them ethnic Tutsis, are slaughtering Hutus in revenge for the 1994 Hutu-led genocide in Rwanda.

Regardless, the 56-year-old chairman of the Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire presides over a sophisticated military and political organization. And his rebels have three advantages over Mobutu's unpaid and demoralized government troops: strategy, discipline and motivation.

In less than six months, rebels have captured nearly one-third of Zaire, Africa's third-largest nation, pushing west through dense jungle to reach the Zaire River and

the outskirts of Kisangani, one of Zaire's largest cities.

Many of the rebels are Banyamulenge, Zairian-born ethnic Tutsis of Rwandan descent. They were quick to join the rebellion after Mobutu tried to expel them in September, saying they were not real Zairians. But Tutsis are no longer the majority as the rebels acquire more territory and recruits.

"The whole country is giving us its sons," Kabila said. The insurgency has gained about 20,000 new troops, he said, but he wants 75,000 more by the end of the month.

The Alliance uses many of the trademark tactics of Tutsi rebels who took over neighboring Rwanda in 1994. It favors pincer movements on the battlefield, always leaving the enemy an escape route to herd it west.

Government forces have pillaged towns they were supposed to be defending and fled without much of a fight.

Unlike the army, the rebels are disciplined. On a continent where many armies are fueled by beer, rebels are not drunk in public. Their US-style uniforms are crisp in sweltering jungles. They follow command.

Cmdr. Augustin Zeh said the Alliance

recruited him two years ago to train soldiers, each of whom has at least three months of military drills and political education.

Perhaps most important, Kabila's troops have a motivation that government troops lack. They, too, have suffered under Mobutu's harsh rule, which in 31 years has left resource-rich Zaire in desperate poverty.

"The rebels are motivated because they have a just cause," said Capt. Ndongo Baeka, a defector from the Zairian army.

"They want change to help the people who have suffered, to help them enjoy the benefits of Zaire's natural riches." There are those who say Kabila may want those riches for himself. A former rebel commander, Nathaniel Mbumba, has told the AP that Kabila has long trafficked in precious materials.

Already, the rebels control at least two gold mines. When asked if the mines are working, Kabila said, "Not yet." Guillaume Ngefa Atondoko, president of the Zairian Association for the Defense of Human Rights, calls Kabila an "opportunist" and says he worries about Kabila's growing popularity.

"They are dreaming," Ngefa said. "Zaire is now like a hooker. If somebody comes and gives you money, then you take it."

It's just desperation because we are suffering so," Ngefa, a US-trained attorney, also says that rebels are killing Rwandan Hutu refugees in revenge for the genocide there.

The refugees fled fearing reprisals for the massacre of a half-million Tutsis.

Still, civilians give the rebels crucial support, carrying goods toward the front, showing them shortcuts through the jungle and giving them food.

David Shearer, a researcher at the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies, said the farther west Kabila goes, the less support he may have. Zaire claims the rebels get support from Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi — all of whom deny it. But US officials in Washington, speaking on condition of anonymity, say they have reports that men from all three countries have been fighting in Zaire for the Alliance.

"I think it's in Uganda's and Rwanda's interests to retain a friendly buffer zone on that border" along eastern Zaire, he said. "But I don't think their support extends to the takeover of Zaire as a whole."

Moslems, Croat on trial for war crimes

THE HAGUE (AP) — Serb prisoners were tortured, raped and killed at a Bosnian concentration camp, the prosecutor said yesterday in opening a war crimes case against three Moslems and a Croat.

The trial, conducted by the United Nations' tribunal on Yugoslavia, is the first collective war crimes trial since Nuremberg and Tokyo courts examined World War II atrocities.

It also represents a chance for Bosnia's Serbs to show they were not the only ones responsible for rape, torture and murder during Bosnia's war.

"I want justice, nothing more and nothing less. I will say how it was," said Gvozda Cercez, a Serb woman in her 60s who said she was raped at Celebici, a central Bosnia camp set up by mostly Moslem authorities at the beginning of the war.

In his opening statement, prosecutor Eric Ostberg said Serbs were "murdered, tortured, raped and beaten by guards at the prison and by outside persons who were permitted to come into the camp."

The session, filled with lawyers' squabbling over procedures and technicalities, was recessed after three hours. It resumes today.

Prosecutors have called 76 survivors to testify. A defense attorney demanded yesterday that the defense be given witnesses' addresses.

Prosecutors protested, citing the need to protect them from possible retaliation. Presiding Judge

Adolphus Karibi-Whyte of Nigeria said he would rule later on the issue.

The international Red Cross first reported the Celebici camp as a place of harassment and torture in August 1992. Months later, a number of Serbs were released and the camp was shut down. Some, however, were transferred to other camps and endured prolonged torture until 1994.

At least 14 Serbs allegedly died horribly at the camp and many more were tortured during months or years as prisoners.

Inmates were beaten with steel cables, wooden and metal bars, burned with heated scissors, wrapped with fuses that were then lit, and forced to remain in vats of water, according to a 49-page indictment. Prisoners were raped and some were forced to act like animals and to perform oral sex on each other, the indictment said.

One man died after a badge with a Moslem party logo was nailed to his head, it said.

The defendants are Zejnil Delalic, 49, a Moslem military commander in the region; the camp's commander, Zdravko Mucic, a 41-year-old Croat; Mucic's deputy, Hazim Delic, 36; and Esad Landzo, 23, a guard at the camp.

All have pleaded innocent. They face life sentences if convicted. Landzo is accused of personally killing five men. Delic is charged with four slayings and with direct participation in the torture.



Firemen inspect the wreckage on the M42 motorway following two multiple pileups that left four dead and 60 injured. (Reuters)

Four dead in British 90-car pileups

BIRMINGHAM (AP) — About 90 cars and trucks slammed into each other in thick fog yesterday morning in two highway pileups that left four dead and 60 injured on a single stretch of roadway.

Fires broke out in 15 vehicles spread across a quarter of a mile of a major highway in central England, and scores of firefighters extinguished the flames.

Hospitals said four people were killed and three were in serious condition. Police reported 60 injured, most of them "walking wounded." Rescuers led about 70 dazed survivors away from their mangled cars and trucks to a nearby hotel, and authorities set up a special telephone number for people worried about relatives.

The first accident, involving about 60 vehicles, happened at 6:45 a.m. in the southbound lanes of the M42 near Alvechurch on the southern outskirts of the city of Birmingham, the spokesman said. Wreckage was spread over 400 meters of the roadway.

The second major accident, involving about 30 vehicles, happened 20 minutes later in the northbound lanes, he said. The sites, although not directly opposite were within yards of each other.

David Hills, 41, said he managed to get out of his car after it crashed, and climbed onto the embankment where he watched the pileup.

"Cars were just smashing into one another," he said. "Some were upside down and there were cars smashing into the back of lorries and going underneath them. There was a white Peugeot with a lady inside. She didn't get out of that one. It was just flattened. It was terrible to watch." "People were traveling too fast. I stood there watching them slam into one another at 100 kph." Am Gaskell, 34, said she scrambled clear of her car just before it burst into flames.

She was able to stop without hitting another vehicle, "but then a car in the fast lane smashed into mine and a van actually came crashing over the roof of my Rover," she said.

"I thought, I have got to get out and all I can remember is just screaming. I feared for my life, and the car behind mine went up in flames." "Then mine went up in flames," Mrs. Gaskell said, "and for the next 10 minutes I just stood and watched, helpless, as crashes continued for what seemed like an eternity but was probably about 10 minutes."

"The scene was like something from a television program, with children crying and people walking about just dazed." Victims suffered burns, broken bones, shock, whiplash, cuts and bruises, the hospitals reported.

More than 20 fire engines and two water carriers were at the scene, and fuel spillages hampered the rescue attempt, a spokesman for Bromsgrove fire brigade said.

The highway was closed in both directions and the Royal Automobile Club reported huge traffic jams on roads in the area south of Birmingham, which is 145 km northwest of London.

Renowned historian Dame Wedgwood dies

LONDON (AP) — Dame C.V. Wedgwood, one of Britain's most eminent and widely read historians, has died at age 86.

Dame Veronica died at a London hospital after a long illness, her agent Deborah Owen said yesterday.

C.V. Wedgwood specialized in 17th century history, and her colorfully written works on the English Civil War, particularly *The Great Rebellion*, won a wide audience.

Her Civil War trilogy, *The King's Peace*, *The King's War* and *The Trial of Charles I*, were used for school history classes.

The Thirty Years War, published in 1938, is regarded as the standard work on the subject.

The 1944 biography of the Dutch William the Silent, *Prince of Orange*, won her the prestigious James Tait Black prize in Britain. The Netherlands made her an Officer in the Order of Orange-Nassau in 1945.

A great-great-granddaughter of Josiah Wedgwood, the famous potter, she was educated at the Sorbonne in Paris and studied history at Oxford University's Lady Margaret Hall.

She became a Dame of the British Empire — the female equivalent of a knight — in 1968, and in 1969 was made a member of the Order of Merit, a highly prized honor that is the gift of the monarch.

Dame Veronica's narrative style, criticized by some in later years,

painted a broad and vivid picture of the period.

Writer and historian Sir Roy Strong wrote in 1996 of his debt to Dame Veronica, to whom he dedicated his book, *The Story of Britain*. She inspired his fascination with history as a boy in the 1950s.

"Even at that date, her approach to history and history writing was under fire from academe, representing, as it did, adherence to the grand tradition of narrative writing inherited from the Victorian age. Worse, it enshrined a belief that human beings had a role in influencing the march of history," he wrote.

"These books swept me, as a youth of 16, into the past, first and foremost because they were a compulsively good read. The pages were filled with unforgettable scenes and character sketches."

She always wrote with "everyman" in mind, Strong said — far different from Strong's later training that taught it was "almost squalid" to write "in any way which might communicate what one had discovered to a broad intelligent public, for it might smack of journalism or populism."

In addition to her histories, she translated two major works from German, *Die Blendung* by Elias Canetti and *Karl V* by Carl Erandi. Dame Veronica is survived by her close friend Jacqueline Hope-Wallace, with whom she lived for nearly 70 years.

Nazi suspect dies after shootout with police

KANSAS CITY (AP) — A man accused of being a Nazi death camp guard has died two months after he was wounded in a shootout with police and suffered brain damage during surgery.

Michael Kolhofer, 79, died early yesterday at the University of Kansas Medical Center. The hospital did not disclose the cause of death.

Kolhofer, who was placed on a respirator for five weeks after the Jan. 31 shootout, recently was reported to be recovering. He had improved and responded to simple verbal commands, such as

squeezing a hand, Dr. Norman Estes, the hospital's chief of staff, had said.

Kolhofer, however, had not been expected to recover enough to live outside of a health center or without the assistance of a nurse, Estes had said.

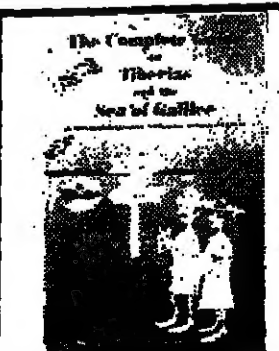
Hours before the shootout, Justice Department prosecutors had filed papers to strip Kolhofer of his US citizenship. He was accused of concealing in his 1952 visa application his past as a guard at Nazi concentration camps in Sachsenhausen and Buchenwald. Police shot Kolhofer outside

his home in Kansas City, Kansas, after he waved a gun at reporters who went to interview him and he fired at officers. No one else was injured and Kolhofer was charged with three counts of aggravated assault on a law enforcement officer.

Lawyer Robert DeCoursey, who represents the former construction worker and widower, said Kolhofer was born in Croatia and was drafted into the German Army during the war.

Kolhofer denied working as a death camp guard, DeCoursey said.

Since 1979, the Office of Special Investigation has sought to identify and prosecute former Nazis currently living in the United States. At least 57 former Nazis have been stripped of US citizenship and 48 have been expelled. More than 300 suspects remain under investigation.



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Moving the goalposts

An attempt to change the law and enable a simple majority of MKs to bring down the government without simultaneously dissolving the Knesset would be akin to moving the goalposts in the middle of a game.

The country's citizens went to the polls last May and voted in accordance with a particular set of political rules. They cast separate ballots for the Knesset and the prime minister, assuming that the balance of power between the executive and legislative branches would be maintained according to the new rules that were set in place for the 14th Knesset. One could presume this set-up influenced voters' choices. Similarly, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu put together his coalition and adopted policies over the past nine months, keeping in mind the extent and limits of maneuverability granted him by these rules.

For the Knesset to change the rules at this point would mean granting a small number of Knesset backbenchers the ability to reverse the popular vote for the prime minister, without their having to face the voters themselves. The unfairness behind this suggestion is striking, even given the cynical behavior Israelis have come to expect from the Knesset.

It is also far from clear that what proponents of the changes are suggesting will be an improvement, especially since the jury is still out on the effects of the system first implemented last May. It should be recalled that the original impetus for changing the old system, under which the leader of the largest Knesset faction generally became prime minister, was a desire to end the ability of small numbers of MKs to threaten to bring down the government unless they were paid off. The list of MKs who have engaged in such extortion over the years is long; some recent entries include Ephraim Gur and Alex Goldfarb. The Direct Election Law was also supposed to stabilize the position of the prime minister.

Following last year's elections, many who had originally supported the change were surprised, and dismayed, as the major political parties lost seats and factional fragmentation increased. There were even those who worried that the Direct Election Law had paradoxically

increased the instability of the prime minister, who now had to maneuver between six widely varied coalition partners.

What in the end has preserved Netanyahu's position is precisely the aspect of the Direct Election Law which is at issue today: the fact that a no-confidence vote by 61 MKs brings down not only the government, but the Knesset as well. The effects were visible this week, as what threatened to be a roaring mutiny within the coalition dissolved meekly, once some MKs had to face the unthinkable prospect of voting themselves out of office. Attempts at political extortion have not been eliminated, but their bite has been blunted.

The proposed changes would combine the worst of the old system with the worst of the new. Individual MKs and small parties will again be able to directly threaten the prime minister with a no-confidence vote on virtually any issue, and, given the current fragmentation in the Knesset their strength will be even more magnified.

Labor MKs who are keen on the proposed change would do well to ponder this. They supported the direct election of the prime minister because they were confident that it would both increase their parliamentary representation and bring their candidate to victory. The elections proved them wrong, but their opportunistic attempts to reverse all this can easily boomerang. Even if they do manage to topple the Netanyahu government by changing the rules, and install a Labor candidate at the helm instead, the new government will in all likelihood be so beholden to individual interests that it too will either be short-lived or be forced to sacrifice most of its principles. Neither alternative will endear Labor to the public.

There is plenty of room for serious discussion about how to improve Israel's electoral system and assure an effective system of checks and balances. But this is a long-term task that will require public debate, and gradual changes that will allow the public to adjust. These days, with all that is being said about breach of trust by public servants, the Knesset should be all the more wary of placing narrow political interests ahead of constitutional prudence.



It's not if, but when

No one — individuals, communities, or nations — is immune to terrorism. The latest bus bombings in China (a country which has been relatively free of terrorism), apparently perpetrated by Moslem separatists, highlights this reality once again.

The sheer scope of the threat tempts one to raise one's hands in despair and start thinking about something else; it is becoming too frightening to contemplate what seems like a self-fulfilling prophecy.

This was what prompted an international conference entitled "Preventing Super-Terrorism: Threats and Responses" opening tonight at Tel Aviv University and the Center for Technological Education in Holon.

The numerous political conflicts and arms races that characterize the post-Cold War era make it likely that terrorism will continue to plague the world.

What raises the terrorism stakes in the "new world order"? It is the threat that the coming years may witness more actors (nations, organizations, and individuals) with the intent and capability of using weapons of mass destruction (WMD); a greater availability of the knowledge and technology needed to manufacture and deliver such weapons; and the existence of many vulnerable targets.

A glimpse of the specter of this concern was provided in March 1995, when members of Aum Shinrikyo, a Japanese Doomsday cult, released sarin nerve gas in a Tokyo subway, resulting in 12 dead and more than 5,000 hospitalized.

Other recent incidents of "super-terrorism" include the arrest and conviction of individuals tied to militia-type and white supremacist groups in the US planning to use ricin against US federal employees. A small amount of ricin, developed from castor beans, can kill in minutes if ingested, inhaled, or absorbed through the skin.

Terrorists can not only produce WMD, they can also buy such weapons on the free and black

YONAH ALEXANDER

markets; steal them from research labs and the military; and they can receive biological, chemical and nuclear weapons from state-sponsors of terrorism like Iran, Iraq, Libya, North Korea, and Syria.

According to the US Department of Defense, more than 25 countries possess or are developing WMD and the means of delivering them. The proliferation of these weapons is the most

We've seen terrorism. The new threat is 'super-terrorism'

significant challenge to international security.

While in the short term biological and chemical weapons are technologically feasible, in the long term, nuclear terrorism — the explosion of a nuclear bomb, the use of fissionable material as a radioactive poison, or the seizure and sabotage of nuclear facilities — is plausible, perhaps inevitable. Radioactive materials for commercial purposes will increasingly be shipped by land, sea, and air. The possibility of hijacking shipments of such materials and building nuclear weapons has come off the movie screen and turned into a real prospect for terrorists.

WITH the essential expertise and components such as fuels and explosive devices, it may be possible for a terrorist group to build a crude nuclear weapon. However, testing requirements and the need to secure safe havens would make it difficult for them to construct a sophisticated nuclear weapon without state sponsorship.

Alternatively, terrorists could steal a weapon from the arsenal of a nuclear-weapon state. There are thousands of such weapons scattered throughout the world, located in hundreds of storage areas and deployed in different regions. Some are not deployed, but remain stockpiled. Others are

deployed as tactical warheads and demolition mines; yet others are on submarines.

Terrorists could also seize control of key components of nuclear weapons, like weapons-grade fuel and detonators. And they could potentially attack a commercial target to seize nuclear fuels.

As we move into an era of "super-terrorism," a number of public policy issues need to be studied. To what extent do governments want to intensify awareness of the danger of super-terrorism? There are arguments for and against sensitizing the public. Highlighting the danger may breed a lack of confidence in government if the public senses that this is a threat the government may not be able to deal with.

Failure to respond adequately to crises poses dangers to government. Chernobyl, which placed a very heavy responsibility on the officials responding to the nuclear incident, produced a direct erosion of authority of the Soviet government.

In the case of "super-terrorism," the government would have to respond even if it was ill-prepared to deal with a cataclysmic event, though an inadequate response would undermine its authority.

Yet there should be no reticence in discussing these issues. Governments must tell their people about the threat they face.

The scientific and academic communities must synthesize and communicate information about the proliferation of knowledge and technology that enables "super-terrorism." They must single out the terrorist actors, their motives, methods of operation and targets, and discuss the strategies that can address the challenge. They must indicate what the international community can do to reduce the risks.

This threat will not go away. It must be faced.

The writer is director of the Inter-University Center for Terrorism Studies based in Washington D.C. and Holon, Israel.

Perilous games, played solo

Was Oslo adopted in anything resembling a rational process? Ari Shavit put the question to Yossi Beilin in an interview in last weekend's *Ha'aretz* Magazine.

As deputy to foreign minister Shimon Peres, Beilin, who is now contesting the leadership of the Labor Party, was the moving force behind the accord, "selling" it to a willing Peres and a suspicious Yitzhak Rabin.

Replied the MK: "By and large, there are no rational processes [in these situations]... almost always things come about as a result of the players' inner conviction that they are doing the right thing, based on their emotions, intuition, and personal experience...."

"As an observer of Israeli government decision-making since 1984, I am aware that even in democracies with reasonably qualified governments, with serious people in the Prime Minister's Office, we haven't arrived at a situation where decisions of vital national importance are taken in an orderly way. Maybe we never can; maybe we shouldn't."

Beilin noted his "surprise," even "unease," at seeing the consensus with which the Labor government approved the Oslo plan, including revolutionary proposals for contacts with the PLO which many ministers had, until then, opposed tooth and nail.

Shavit commented, "In a sense, Oslo was very similar to the process by which the decision to go to war in Lebanon was taken by the Begin government in

YOSEF GOELL

1982." Beilin assented. Scary? I would say so. One could also add foreign minister Peres's attempt in 1986 to conclude an agreement with King Hussein behind prime minister

Yossi Beilin's interview with 'Ha'aretz' was chilling in the extreme

Shamir's back and that of the Likud-Labor unity government.

IN our current situation, the issue is not the exact percentage of additional territory to be ceded to the Palestinian Authority in each of three withdrawals.

What should be causing deep concern is mounting evidence that Netanyahu doesn't have the vaguest idea of where he is leading the country in the final stage negotiations. It's much like the way Rabin "played it by ear" in 1993-95.

In the *Ha'aretz* interview, Beilin admits to never having talked with Rabin or Peres about Israel's ultimate goals at the end of the process. Nor, he says, to the best of his knowledge was there any such discussion among the top leadership.

The assumption that perhaps this is how it must be is highly dangerous. It seems to be implying either

that situations like Israel's since its inception are just too complex to bear rational analysis, or that ministers are too politically biased, too prone to leak, and, in many instances, too stupid to consult.

While part of this may be valid, our prime ministers themselves have made some disastrously mistaken decisions.

They failed to anticipate the Six Day War or prepare for the Yom Kippur War. They didn't realize the implications of the Lebanon war. And Yitzhak Shamir and Rabin failed totally to grasp the meaning of the intifada.

Israel simply cannot afford the mortal risk of a Rabin, a Peres or a Netanyahu playing a life-and-death game with their cards held so close to their chests.

Our leaders have to start learning — or be compelled to learn — to work with highly-qualified professional advisers, and to institutionalize consultations on major policy decisions with a council made up of former prime ministers, defense and foreign ministers, and army chiefs of staff.

There are no simple solutions to the problems that confront us. But many minds are better than one, especially when that one is far from being the genius of the age.

Of dedicated, motivated and highly-qualified people we have no shortage. The problem is getting our leaders, with their inordinately inflated egos, to use this reservoir of national wisdom.

The writer comments on current affairs.

Horror story

SUSAN HATTIS ROLEF

Two stories in the news last week dealt with Israeli men who had abducted their children. In each case, the abduction was accompanied by a double murder.

The first was an item on the extradition to Israel from Switzerland on March 2 of scientist Dr. Amiram Hochberg, who left Israel illegally with his son last May.

The police believes that before leaving here, Hochberg murdered his son's mother, Shulamit Bleichman, and Shulamit's mother, Ida.

The second story was a *Yedioth Aharonot* interview of Israeli-American Avi Kostner.

The divorced Kostner abducted and killed his two children on June 26, 1994, on the grounds of saving them from apostasy, and is now awaiting execution in a New Jersey prison.

These abductions were not crimes of passion; they were carefully planned. Both men are apparently sociopaths, but still considered responsible for their actions.

These stories are not typical, but they represent the phenomenon, not uncommon, of divorced or separated fathers who are unwilling to accept the fact of their former wives or girlfriends being given custody over their children.

Having convinced themselves that the child's welfare is at stake, they decide to change the situation through some drastic act, refusing to admit that they are motivated by pure selfishness and that it is the children to whom the greatest harm is done.

ONE case in which I was personally involved concerned a young divorced Palestinian woman I met in Gaza.

One day several years ago, she called me up, weeping bitterly.

One moment your child is with you. Suddenly, he's gone, and there's nothing you can do

Her six-year-old son had disappeared, and she had good reason to believe that her former husband had abducted him to Egypt, even though the local Shari'ya court had ruled that the child would remain with her at least until age nine.

There was very little I or anyone else could do, I realized. Even in the case of Yossele Schumacher, who was abducted from his parents by his grandfather and haredi circles in 1960, it took the Mossad two years to discover the child's whereabouts. How on earth could anyone locate a little Palestinian boy in Egypt?

I got a psychologist in Gaza to go and see the woman, and try to help her cope with the bitter reality. I also phoned the Egyptian Embassy in Tel Aviv, and asked the First Secretary to give the woman a call, again mostly for the psychological effect, since it was unlikely the Egyptian authorities could do anything.

I have no idea what became of that boy, but I do know that his mother's life, never easy, turned into hell.

I know what it means to lose a child, and I know how painful divorce can be, even when the two sides aren't at each other's throats.

But when a child disappears, abducted by a selfish father, and one has the feeling that, if only there were only a little more human justice and compassion in our society (religious circles included), things could be different, one's feelings of helplessness become unbearable.

A friend of mine, raising her child alone in Jerusalem and doing a good job of it, under extremely trying circumstances, recently told me that her greatest fear is that her former husband, who seems intent on making her life a misery, will some day decide to abduct their child.

What can she do to try to prevent such an eventuality? Whom can she turn to?

There are phone numbers for battered women to call, and refugees they can escape to — but what recourse has a woman who lives in fear that her child might be illegally taken away from her?

And then one reads about the Hochbergs and the Kostners, and one realizes how easily a nightmare can turn into a real-life horror story.

It is time for the women's organizations and other bodies dealing with women's welfare to pay real, professional attention to women in this particular predicament.

A special hotline would be good beginning.

The writer is a political scientist.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CHRISTIAN SUPPORT

Sir, — In the name of multitudes of Christians from many churches and many nations, the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem (ICEJ) would like to voice its support for Israel's decision to build houses in the Har Homa district of its own capital city, Jerusalem.

The ICEJ also objects to a statement made last week by the heads of some historic churches in Jerusalem, criticizing Israel for the decision to build.

It is extremely arrogant to deny the Jewish people the right to build and settle in their eternal capital, after their return from 2000 years of dispersion to their God-given land and

city.

To bring up the argument, as some church representatives have, that the Har Homa property (the vast majority of which was expropriated by the Israeli government from Jewish owners) should not be built on because it is the site of ruins of a monastery is pure hypocrisy. It is common knowledge that two of Islam's shrines are built on the site of which was once the holiest place of the Jewish people, the place in the heart of the city where their Temple stood in all its glory, and that Jews are barred from the Temple Mount.

Would these church leaders also argue for the Temple Mount to be

freed up again for Jewish worship and deny Moslems exclusive control?

Therefore, in the name of many thousands of Christian supporters and friends of Israel all over the world, we say to the government and people of Israel, as God Himself once said to Joshua: "Be strong and of good courage, for to this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them."

JAN WILLEM VAN DER HOEVEN
International Christian Embassy

Jerusalem.

STANDING FIRM

Sir, — Regardless of whatever else we might think about Anwar Sadat and our peace with Egypt one must look with respect at the former Egyptian leader's unwavering stand on the integrity of Egyptian soil and his not wanting to negotiate away even one centimeter of the Sinai.

Syrian President Hafez Assad's stand on the Golan, too, requires our respect. It is with

great sorrow for us, then, that we look at the debate currently in our society regarding the fate of the Holy City. The people of the Book, a wise and ancient people whose yearning for its eternal capital has kept us alive through the long and dark night of the Diaspora is now confronted with the actions of some of its leaders, for whom the holiest of cities, our eternal capital has become like cheap real estate to

be given away.

I ask myself how can we expect our enemies and the nations of the world to take us seriously. If we are willing to consider the dismemberment of Jerusalem; everything else is a forgone conclusion. But worse yet, how can we look at each other as a people with respect.

AMRAM JOSEF
Petah Tikva.

DEATH TRAPS

Sir, — I am not the only person to have been struck by a car while crossing the street on a crosswalk. In fact, at the hospital where I was treated, I was told that 90% of the accidents involving pedestrians took place at crosswalks.

It seems that these crosswalks are in reality "death traps" — the pedestrians assume that they are safe there, while the drivers ignore the "slow down" regulations when approaching

and do not come to a full stop when a pedestrian is on the walk.

We have been told time and time again that there is no budget to station traffic police at every crossing. However, building a speed bump in front of every crossing would force the driver to slow down. This would reduce the number of accidents and thereby save a large amount of money in lost work hours, hospital expenses, insurance pay-

ments, let alone the suffering from injury, pain, anxiety and helplessness experienced by the victims.

Crosswalk victims are invited to write me at P.O.B. 8022, 91080 Jerusalem, with full information regarding their accident, which may be used in a class action suit.

AARON ROTH
Jerusalem.

THE FIDDLER

Sir, — All the subject matters referred to by Dr. Gerald Steinberg ("For Survival," March 3) are certainly deserving of funds from the unclaimed assets of Holocaust victims, with a view to revive Judaism and preserve the Jewish State and the Jewish people when threatened by corrosion from within.

I was surprised though that he did not mention threats from without: not military threats from Israeli's neighbors but the relentless propaganda campaign

conducted in the conventional media and on Internet by Palestinian officials in the PA and Palestinian students, academics and intellectuals from the United States, which aims at eroding Israel's credibility, dehumanizing the Jews and denying Jewish history in Eretz Yisrael generally and Jerusalem in particular.

RUTH WILLERS
Wembley Park, Middx.

Sir, — Your paper reported (February 26) the prime minister saying, "I chuckle sometimes at the things I read in the newspapers. Chuckle is an understatement."

An attempt was made to undermine our system of justice, the media is constantly threatened, religious fanatics gain influence and power, the prospect of peace sinks behind the horizon, and the prime minister chuckles.

I wonder if he plays the fiddle too.
GREGORY BORS
Tel Aviv.

مكتبة الأنجلو

Hollywood women get real

By SHARON WAXMAN

This year's Oscars belie the myth that there are no good roles for movie actresses other than clinging girlfriends, dutiful wives, sex kittens and prostitutes.

Award nominations include Diane Keaton as a middle-aged spinster with cancer in *Marvin's Room*, Brenda Blethyn as an aging working-class woman found by a child she gave up for adoption in *Secrets & Lies*, Kristin Scott Thomas as a sand-swept heroine in colonial Egypt in *The English Patient* and Frances McDormand as a distinctly unglamorous pregnant police chief in *Fargo*.

Most of these performances came from films made by small independent studios, but during the last year several more mass-market movies gave prominent roles to women.

The First Wives Club, with Goldie Hawn, Bette Midler and Keaton, was an unexpected hit; Meg Ryan played a role that might have gone to a man in *Courage Under Fire*; and *Evita* was the role every A-list actress wanted.

"We're getting somewhere," says Lynda Obst, producer of *One*



'First Wives Club' member Goldie Hawn



Movie mogul Sherry Lansing

Fine Day. "This was the year in which four women's movies came out at Christmas ... in which

female audiences became a factor in the marketing and production of movies, though not the lead and determining factor."

"There have been small changes in Hollywood as women have become more powerful, as demographics have changed," says UCLA film professor Vivian Sobchack. "It's also pushed and prodded by independent films, which, if they're successful, end up suggesting other possibilities where Hollywood might make a buck."

The key to the shift, most seem to agree, is the growing number of female executives at the studios where movies are conceived, financed and carried out.

Market researchers have long considered women to be important decision-makers in movie-going, but it is only very recently that Hollywood started to make movies primarily to attract them.

That may be because Paramount chairman Sherry Lansing is no longer the only woman in the boardroom.

There is also Columbia-Tristar vice chairman Lucy Fisher, Fox 2000 president Laura Ziskin, United Artists president Lindsay Doran and Fine Line Features president Ruth Vitale, to name just a few. (The Washington Post)

IN TUNE



With its first album in more than three years, U2 reaches out to new genres.

U2 goes over The Edge

By DAVID BRINN

Combining '60s activism and idealism with the verve of punk, U2 became the most popular, and arguably the best rock 'n' roll band to emerge in the 1980s. Like another '80s superstar, Bruce Springsteen, the band has spent the '90s attempting to redefine itself.

With its first album in more than three years, U2 is trying to desperately prove that it is vital and current. Ironically, when it forgets to be cool and sticks closer to its pop instincts, it continues to make passionate, intelligent rock. But when it dresses things up with frills and dance accessories, it flounders in an area dominated by masters of the genre like The Prodigy and Underworld.

So what we have here is a typically evocative set of U2 songs marred by two or three tracks which, despite elements of The Edge's distinctive guitar and Larry Mullen's rock beat, fail to connect the band's strengths with the dance world.

Like much of U2's work in the 1990s, *Pop* is full of irony, beginning with its title. The band has never made real pop music, always possessing a depth beyond ordinary radio fare. The sonic assault and industrial strength noise of "Discotheque" and "Mofo" are enough to turn longtime fans away in dismay, but they will probably sound great at full volume on the disco floor. Which is probably what the band aimed for in the first place.

For those searching for more, they will find it with the U2-meets-

Oasis "Last Night on Earth" and the upbeat acoustic "Staring at the Sun," one of the most straightforward songs the band has ever done. More moody, but just as successful, are the reverberant and echo-drenched ballads "The Playboy Mansion" and "Wake Up Dead Man."

Pop continues the trend the band started with *Achilles Heel* and *Zooropa* of expanding its horizons and breaking with tradition. Now, if it would only leave the dance stuff alone.

AS OPPOSED to The Grammy's, the Brit Awards hold some validity. And this sampler of 19 of the nominated artists offers a good cross-section of British pop and rock. Tracks from Oasis, Pulp and Manic Street Preachers complement relative pop newcomers like Babybird, Dodgy and Skunk Anansie, and dance faves Fugees, Prodigy and Babyface.

Even a token Yank, Sheryl Crow, is thrown in without extra charge.

You'll learn more about the current state of rock than watching the last 10 Grammy shows.

THE SOUNDTRACK to the new Tom Cruise film *Jerry Maguire* presents a fine mix of classic rockers and singer-songwriters. Rather than picking instantly identifiable hits to bolster sales, writer and director Cameron Crowe utilizes his rich musical past as a rock writer to bring back to life gems like Neil Young's "World on a String," The Who's "Gettin' on a String" and Bob Dylan's "Shelter From the Storm."

- POP**
U2 (Rellcom)
- BRIT AWARDS 97**
Various Artists (NMC)
- JERRY MAGUIRE: THE SOUNDTRACK**
Various Artists (NMC)
- EMI: THE FIRST CENTENARY**
Various Artists (NMC)

Mann. Filmmakers should take note that not every film score needs to include "California Dreamin'" or "The Shoop Shoop Song."

TO CELEBRATE their first century, EMI Records has put out a sprawling two-CD tribute to itself. The first CD spans the time from Enrico Caruso recorded in 1902 to Frank Sinatra in 1954 performing "Three Coins in the Fountain" with Nelson Riddle and his Orchestra.

The second CD opens with Gene Vincent's "Be-Bop-A-Lula" and continues through The Beatles and The Beach Boys on through to The Sex Pistols and Pet Shop Boys.

This is one of those CDs that is worth owning, but it's doubtful you'll ever sit down and play it all the way through.

Taking the gloss off 'Shine'

Humming and talking to himself on stage, pianist David Helfgott reached another milestone in his comeback from mental illness when he received a standing ovation at his US debut last week. The Australian, whose struggle to return to music was depicted in the Oscar-nominated movie *Shine*, performed to a sold-out crowd of 2,000 people at Boston's Symphony Hall.

The *Boston Globe* critic Richard Dyer was not impressed. The performance, Dyer wrote, "was without phrasing, form, harmonic understanding, differentiation of style, and often basic accuracy, worst of all, it was without emotional content." The sad fact is that David Helfgott should not have been in Symphony Hall last night, and neither should the rest of us. (AP)

THEATER ROUNDUP

A sabra family's secrets

By NAOMI DOUDAI

This home-brewed Hebrew play dealing with the sordid secrets of a homely, sabra family, draws on what might have been heart-warming, gnawingly nostalgic material. As developed here, however, the outcome is ultimately little more than a raging battleground where saccharine sentiment and explosive emotions scream out in a competitive bid for audience attention.

Enacted in an awkward structure of recoups is the maudlin mystery that connects the lives of Dana, a sulky, introverted teenager (Aya



Powerful actress Zaharira Harifai is joined by real-life daughter Aya Shva in 'Voyages.'

- VOYAGES**
By Shulamit Lapid
Cameri Theater
Tel Aviv
- TWELFTH NIGHT**
By William Shakespeare
Cameri Theater, Tel Aviv

Shva), her extrovert father, (Shraga Harpaz), her feisty "foster" mother (Zaharira Harifai), and Ruthi (Liat Goren), the latter's demonic, Americanized daughter.

While Harifai, a powerful player, manages to give an unwavering role credibility, Shva (her real-life daughter) is in the course of the ongoing melodrama haplessly crushed between the towering tantrums and the car-splitting exhibitionism of the other two.

Even if direction had tried to tone them down it is doubtful if that would have helped overcome the overwhelming banality of a poor play.

THIS IS, as the Yiddish saying goes, Shakespeare *abergesetz* (made over) and *farbessert* (improved). Michael Gurevitz (direction) and Ehud Manor (Hebrew) have done for the Bard

terms. For Shakespeare lovers it rates as cultural shock.

Feste (Rami Baruch), his most precious, poetic personification of wit and wisdom, is realized only through Yoni Rechter's exquisitely rendered music.

Feste figures with the comic quartet (Ronni Blitz in the lead as a fabulous Sir Toby), that with their

Orsini, a pugnacious, sourpuss Olivia.

Shimon Mimran as a sea captain gives the only impressive performance. Not only that, design seems at odds with direction, downstaging the set to a billowing blue tarpaulin that symbolizes a cliché seascape, dual glitz and glimmer, how, when, and as required.

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Three years after fleeing the bloodshed of his native Yugoslavia, pianist Sasha Toperich is about to conclude his master's degree at the Jerusalem Rubin Music Academy.

Toperich manages to spend half a year here - he has a piano in his flat in Jerusalem's Kiryat Moshe - and the other half of the year touring in concerts all over the world. His forthcoming recitals will see him going to Cairo, Beijing, Shanghai, Seoul, Hawaii and Los Angeles, among other venues. These concerts "satisfy my professional ego."

The invitations to play abroad started flooding in after a highly successful concert at the Israeli

Embassy in Washington last June, a recital which was broadcast live and then repeated four times on one of the American capital's radio stations. "After that the foreign office organized my upcoming China tour."

Toperich admits that "getting concert dates in Israel is problematic... I'm not a person who knocks on doors. Of course I would like to play with the Philharmonic or to have a recital at the Mann Auditorium, but somehow I'm not interested in playing with smaller orchestras or in smaller venues."

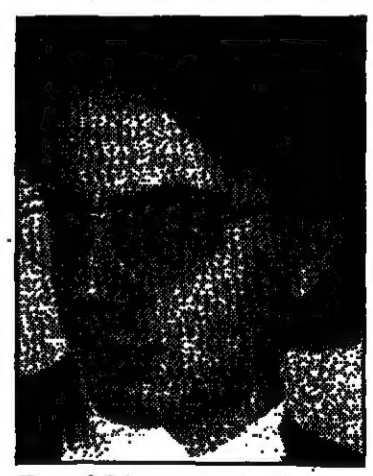
Next week's recital is a benefit for the Holy City Lodge of Jerusalem of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons. "I'm a freemason myself and we wanted to do a

fund-raising event for our charities," Toperich says with pride. "Freemasonry is a system of morality. It's a very important spiritual and intellectual experience."

"You must realize that in spite of what many people think, this is not a secret society. However, it is definitely a society with secrets."

If there is one thing Toperich misses in Israel it is the ability to teach music. "In Yugoslavia I was already an assistant at the university at age 20," says the pianist, who is now 25. "I would like to teach here too but it's more than impossible."

Sasha Toperich plays piano selections by Beethoven, Chopin and Schumann at the YMCA Hall in Jerusalem on March 18.



Toperich's concerts 'satisfy my professional ego.'

A pianist on top of the world

CONCERT ROUNDUP

Redeeming organ music

To celebrate 25 years since organ concerts were revived in the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, with the instrument installed there in 1971, and also in commemoration of Mendelssohn's death 150 years ago, organist Elisabeth Roloff presented Mendelssohn's selection of works by Bach for his organ recital in Leipzig's St. Thomas

furnished evidence of her exquisite musical taste and also achieved contrasts of sonorities that resulted in crystalline transparent polyphonic textures.

The Passacaglia in C minor was constructed with loving care as the monumental architectural edifice that it is.

In contrast to the subtle delicacy of the Organ Chorale BV 654 and the Pastoral in F major, the concluding Toccata and Fugue in D minor's performance was a veritable masterpiece of organic virtuosity.

Church of the Redeemer, March 1.

impressively balancing vocal resources, beauty, intelligence and dramatic presence.

Tenor Yevgeny Shapovalov shone in a sensi-

OPERA HIGHLIGHTS

Beersheba Sinfonietta

tive and tasteful rendition of Lensky's famous aria from *Eugene Onegin*.

The Sinfonietta under Uri Mayer provided flexible symphonic accompaniments to the arias and duets and drew applause for virtuoso playing in the Dance of the Comedians from *The Bartered Bride* and the Polonaise from *Eugene Onegin*.

The program will be repeated today in Arad, Thursday in the Jordan Valley and on Sunday in Dimona.

Beersheba Conservatory, March 8

Max Stern

Channel 2 stays ahead

By HELEN KAYE

Ever since it started broadcasting in January 1994, Channel 2 has been prancing ahead of Channel 1 in the ratings, according to its commissioned surveys. At first, it was by a mere 2%, but by December that year Channel 2 had increased its lead to 24% more viewers. Ever since, Channel 1 has been dragging by between 24 and 28%, according to those figures.

But Channel 1 is hitting back with its own tables.

In January '97, Channel 2 had 28% more viewers overall than Channel 1. Last month, Channel 1 got 2% of viewers back. Channel 1's *Mabat* news from Sunday to Thursday got 19.7% viewers and Channel 2's news attracted 22% but their survey says that Channel 1

only got 16%. Channel 1's Friday night news program *Yoman* got 18%, according to Channel 1. But Channel 2 claims that its rival attracted only 14%, and that its Friday news got 18%. Channel 2's super-entertainer *Dudu Topaz* broadcasts Sundays and attracts a whopping 36%. Nothing on Channel 1 competes with that.

The recent Israel vs. Germany soccer match broadcast on Channel 1 attracted 29.5%, but according to Channel 2, a mere 20% watched that match.

These ratings discrepancies will disappear when the Israel Ratings Board starts operating next October.

The resultant "IRBS" will be as final as Nielsen figures in the US. IRB general manager Oren Tokatli says that the survey being taken at 6,000 homes will establish the



Ratings king Dudu Topaz

parameters that will determine which 385 Israeli families will get the "people meters."

And those black boxes on 385 TVs will determine what we view.

BUSINESS

in brief

KFC to vote today on ice-cream tariff

The Knesset Finance Committee is scheduled to vote today on whether to press the Finance Ministry to impose customs duty and tax on ice cream imports. The Treasury proposals to further open the dairy market to foreign ice cream producers will cause serious damage to the domestic industry, Israel Dairy Board director-general Avshalom Dolev said yesterday.

Committee members on both sides of the political spectrum argued, during a committee meeting yesterday, that the dairy industry is a special case. While in some instances opening up local markets to foreign competition is a positive move, it could be highly damaging in this instance, they said. Currently, Israel produces some 35,000-40,000 tons each year. In 1996, 1,500 tons were brought into the country.

David Harris

Dovrat Shrem, Refco in cooperation deal

Dovrat Shrem Investment Managers and the US-based Refco Funds Holding Co. have signed an agreement to cooperate in raising capital and handling private issues for Israeli growth companies traded on the local market and in New York.

Refco Funds is a subsidiary of the Chicago-based Refco Group, which specializes in risk management services. Refco Funds is engaged in investment banking, investment management and trading in the money and securities market.

Galit Lipkis Beck

Advantec seeks NIS 90 million bond issue

Advantec Technologies, a subsidiary of Galcom, has submitted a draft prospectus for a bond issue to raise a minimum sum of NIS 90 million. The proceeds of the issue will be invested in high-tech companies, mainly those involved in communications, medical, software and electronics. To encourage the public to take part in the issue, Advantec will enter investors into a lottery, the first of its kind in Israel. Prizes include a minimum sum of NIS 13m., as well as cars. The issued bonds will carry an additional interest of up to 20% of Advantec's earnings each year.

Galit Lipkis Beck

Cialit wins best service prize

Kupat Holim Cialit has won first prize in the field of health services in the Paula Mozes competition for the Best Service for 1997. The prize is given according to the results of an independent public opinion survey. The survey was conducted by the Israel Institute for Applied Social Research under the aegis of Yehudi Aharonov. The outstanding products have been chosen annually for the past 43 years. Cialit chairman Dan Michaeli said other surveys in recent months have clearly shown that the health fund has greatly improved its services, and the change for the better is appreciated by members.

Judy Siegel

ASEAN Business Summit opens today

Business leaders from the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and its trading partners will meet in Jakarta this week to discuss trade and investment flows to the region, organizers said yesterday. The two-day ASEAN Business Summit, the first meeting of its kind, will be inaugurated by Indonesian President Suharto today, they said. Some 600 delegates are expected to attend.

"The private sector is the engine of growth, the government is the facilitator," said ASEAN Chambers of Commerce and Industry secretary-general Setyanto Santosa. "The private sector feels it is necessary for top executives of companies to meet together."

The seven ASEAN nations - Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam - will give presentations on trade and investment opportunities in their countries, organizers said.

Reuter

COMPANY RESULTS

Blue Square posts 22% rise in annual net profits

Blue Square Israel, the Givatayim-based retailer which is traded on the New York Stock Exchange, yesterday reported a 22 percent growth in annual net profits to NIS 106.3 million from NIS 87m. in 1995. The chain, which owns and operates more than 140 supermarkets, said its return on capital ratio fell slightly to 17.55 from 18.15.

The company completed the fourth quarter with an increase in net profit to NIS 31.6m. from NIS 24.8m. Key factors which contributed to the improved annual earnings included a 30.3% growth in revenues to NIS 4.1 billion from 3.15b.

Fourth quarter revenues rose 23.5% to NIS 1.04b., thanks to higher sales in existing stores, as well as the opening of new shops and the merger of seven Hamashbir Lazarchan department stores in the North, according to Co-Op president and CEO Yacov Gelbard. Annual operating profits went up 38.9% to NIS 180m. from NIS 129.5m. Fourth quarter operating profits increased to NIS 37.4m. from NIS 37.5m.

Galit Lipkis Beck

Morgan Stanley purchases 8.7% stake in Koor Industries

By DAVID HARRIS

The Morgan Stanley Group has bought 8.77 percent of shares in Koor Industries, the US investment bank confirmed yesterday.

By press time, neither company would comment on the nature of the transaction.

It is unclear exactly how much the shares were purchased for on Wall Street, but initial estimates suggest the deal could be worth as much as \$130 million.

Morgan Stanley's main interests include investment banking,

asset management, sales and trading.

Annual turnover shot up to \$13.1 billion last year, more than 40% higher than in 1995, with a third of all revenues coming from international markets.

The New York-based company is recognized as the world's leading mergers-and-acquisitions consultant, and the third largest global underwriter.

This deal means that Koor, the country's largest and most profitable private company, is now some 34% foreign-owned, with US-based corporation Shamrock

holding 20% of shares and leading Egyptian industrialist Ibrahim Kamel having recently bought 5% (according to the *Financial Times*), through his Cairo-based Kato group.

There is growing interest in Koor within the Arab world, according to company CEO Benny Gaon.

Koor has recently been approached by parties from Qatar, Oman, Bahrain and Abu Dhabi.

With some 30 subsidiaries and more than 20,000 employees in Israel and around the world,

Koor's 1995 net income reached \$156m. on sales of \$3.3b.

Koor shareholders enjoyed a 24.5% return on equity, and exports exceeded \$1b. for the first time in the company's history.

This accounts for over 7% of Israel's entire annual industrial output and exports.

As part of Gaon's global approach, approximately 40% of Koor's activities will be overseas by the end of the year, with the goal of raising that to 50% by 2000.

Koor is believed to be seeking

to expand and diversify its ownership basis as part of strategy aimed at meeting the challenges which await it, as some of its major sources of income - particularly the construction material sector - meet the effects of de-monopolization.

In that framework the company has recently sold a 20% stake in one of its showpiece high-tech holdings, Telrad, to Northern Telecom for \$45m., while last spending some \$200m. in takeovers of chemicals producers in Brazil, Argentina, and Spain.



Fast as a speeding bullet

The newest Nozomi bullet train is shown to the public at the Hiroshima railway station yesterday alongside the present model of the train (left). The new bullet train, which is scheduled to make its debut on March 22 in western Japan, can reach a maximum speed of 300 kph.

(Reuters)

Mutual fund assets up 13% since January

By GALIT LIPKIS BECK

Mutual fund assets have increased 13.1 percent in the first two months of the year, primarily due to a flow of NIS 513 million into the funds, according to the Meitav investment company.

The transfer of money reflects a positive turnaround after three years in which the funds suffered from redemptions, Meitav said.

The turnaround reflected the positive trend recently in the capital market, especially the share market. All the investment channels have reported positive real yields in the first few months of the year.

The highest yields were posted by funds specializing in shares, which benefited from the sharp rises on the stock exchange.

The funds' total assets rose to NIS 15.33 billion at the end of February from NIS 13.55b. at the conclusion of last year. Meitav's mutual fund index rose 9.2% in the two-month period.

In related news, the large bank provident funds reported positive nominal yields of between 1.1% and 1.2%, equivalent to real yields of between 0.7% and 0.8%.

The banks attributed the rise to a continued slowdown in the public's withdrawals.

Bank Hapoalim's Gadish fund, the largest one in the country, posted a real yield of 0.8% in February and a real yield of 3.6% since the beginning of the year.

The fund manages NIS 12.5b. worth of assets. Bank Leumi's Otzma fund reported a real yield of 0.74% last month and 3.31% since the start of the year.

Bank Discount's Tamar fund posted a real yield of 0.73% in February and 3.8% since the start of the year.

Bank Mizrahi's Aid reported a real yield of 0.85% in February and 3.07% since the start of 1997.

First International Bank's Meitav fund reported a real yield of 3.08% in the first two months of the year.

Langental: El Al to be sold within a month

By DAVID HARRIS

The long-awaited privatization of El Al will start within the next month, Transport Ministry director-general Nahum Langental told *The Jerusalem Post* last night.

"Next week we'll be in a better position to know exactly what the situation is," he said. "But in my opinion we'll be ready within the month."

The announcement on the future ownership of El Al will be made soon. Government Companies Authority director-general Tzipi Livni confirmed.

However, she refused to comment on the exact agreement that is likely to be reached.

These comments followed meetings between a special government committee and El Al

workers on Sunday, and with senior company management yesterday.

The committee, set up some three months ago, should have published its proposals before January 13, but has only now begun to finalize its recommendations.

The committee comprises the two senior figures in the government's privatization task force, Livni and Prime Minister's Office deputy director-general Moshe Leon, together with Langental.

These are just the latest in a series of meetings, said El Al managing director Yoel Feldschu, who declined to reveal details of the meetings.

"If what Langental said is true, we will all be very relieved and very happy," said one senior El Al

staff member last night.

There appear to be three main sticking points in any decision to privatize: the protection of workers' rights amid fears of job losses; the company's 1996 and early 1997 predicted losses, which could amount to many tens of millions of dollars; and the insistence of Transport Minister Yitzhak Levy that the company not be allowed to fly on Shabbat no matter who owns the airline.

Furthermore, a more imminent problem has arisen. There appears to be a difference of opinion within the committee as to the nature of the privatization, between those who want it by flotation and those who want a private sale.

Meanwhile, the cabinet is scheduled to discuss the sale of the Israel School of Tourism on

Friday. One of the government's smallest companies, the school employs 21 people. It is the first of several tourism-based companies the government intends to sell in the coming months.

The others are Laromme Hotels International Ltd., Eilat Foreshore Development Co. Ltd., Arad and Dead Sea Region Development Co. Ltd., and Tadmor Hotel School Ltd.

"If no one comes forward to buy the school, we will close it down," said a senior source in the Prime Minister's Office. "However, we think we will find buyers."

The Prime Minister's Office yesterday announced the sale of Yozma Venture Capital Ltd., the first state-owned company to be sold since the government came into power.

UK experts: Labor landslide may rock markets

By JOHN SPECK

LONDON (Reuters) - British financial markets may be relaxed about the prospect of the opposition Labor Party winning the election, but if the party achieves a landslide victory there could be a short-term self-off, economists said.

"If there was a landslide for Labor with a 100 to 150 seat majority and the Conservatives were set to be a weak opposition then the markets would react negatively, at least initially," said Deborah Read, economist at Bank America.

The danger, analysts say, is that

Labor may feel empowered by a clear victory to revert to more traditional hard-line policies, moving back toward a more left-of-center policy agenda which the party favored in the 1980s and 1990s.

Many rank and file members of the party, hungry for leftist policies after almost 18 years of Conservative rule, may quickly become impatient if a clear win does not result in bold policy initiatives, analysts said.

"A Labor parliamentary majority of 100 to 150 seats would leave the markets feeling distinctly uncomfortable and more than 150 would be a significant worry," said Don Smith, economist at HSBC Markets.

Labor currently lead Prime Minister John Major's beleaguered government by around 20 points in the opinion polls, suggesting a landslide victory for Labor is a real possibility.

Labor achieved a massive 17% swing in its favor to win the recent by-election in the northern England constituency of Wirral South, traditionally a safe Conservative seat.

A Renter survey of 20 voting experts published on March 5 found on average they expect Labor to win with an overall parliamentary majority of 59 - more than enough to lead from the front without coalitions for a full parliamentary term but some way short of a

landslide.

But some experts are more bullish on Labor's chances.

"I had expected some signs of a Conservative recovery [in the polls], but the Wirral by-election put paid to that. There is evidence of direct switching of allegiances in Wirral on a large scale," said Peter Kellner, an independent political analyst, who sees Labor winning 93 more seats than all the other parties combined.

Since World War II the radicalism and boldness of British governments has been largely governed by the size of their parliamentary majorities, most recently demonstrated by the 1980s governments under Margaret Thatcher, which were emboldened by majorities of 144 in 1983 and 101 in 1987.

The current premiership of John Major, by contrast, has been marked by consensual policies, pragmatism and gravitation towards the political center, reflecting a slim majority of just 21 achieved in the 1992 election.

"The markets have discounted a Labor win and are comfortable with the idea. However, markets do want an effective check on a Labor government - such as a Conservative opposition party which has some clout and is not overwhelmed in all parliamentary votes," said Read of Bank America.

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (11.9.96)

Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.75	5.00	5.37
Pound sterling (£100,000)	3.875	4.00	4.25
German mark (DM 200,000)	1.825	1.825	2.125
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.825	0.750	1.000
Yen (10 million yen)	-	-	-

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (10.3.97)

CURRENCY BASKET	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Rep. Rates**
	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	3.6174	3.6758	-	-	3.6481
German mark	3.3401	3.3940	3.28	3.45	3.3700
Pound sterling	1.9552	1.9999	1.92	2.02	1.9725
French franc	5.3517	5.4177	5.24	5.50	5.2842
Japanese yen (100)	0.5795	0.5839	0.58	0.60	0.5848
Dutch florin	2.7422	2.7671	2.69	2.83	2.7681
Swiss franc	1.7358	1.7636	1.70	1.79	1.7620
Swedish krona	2.2843	2.3009	2.22	2.34	2.2639
Norwegian krone	0.4867	0.4438	0.42	0.45	0.4409
Denmark krone	0.4875	0.4854	0.47	0.51	0.4850
Finnish mark	0.5129	0.5212	0.50	0.53	0.5176
Canadian dollar	0.5658	0.5664	0.54	0.58	0.5616
Australian dollar	2.4351	2.4744	2.39	2.51	2.4574
Israeli lira (1000)	2.5258	2.5258	2.58	2.71	2.5808
S. African rand	0.7502	0.7622	0.68	0.77	0.7578
Belgian franc (10)	0.9474	0.9627	0.88	0.96	0.9580
Austrian schilling (10)	2.7783	2.8232	2.73	2.87	2.8035
Italian lira (1000)	1.9851	1.9875	1.93	2.03	1.9698
Jordanian dinar	4.9500	4.9700	4.85	4.97	4.7898
Egyptian pound	0.9500	1.0300	0.95	1.03	1.0110
ECU	3.7978	3.8591	3.58	3.85	3.8310
Irish punt	5.1855	5.2682	5.08	5.25	5.2283
Spanish peseta (100)	2.3048	2.3420	2.28	2.35	2.3274

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

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- ☐ Two Month \$45 US Dollars/NIS 158
- ☐ Three Months \$70 US Dollars/NIS 245
- ☐ Six Months \$130 US Dollars/NIS 456

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ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

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TASE ROUNDOUP

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Political tensions push down shares

Mishtanim 256.03 ▼ 1.36%
Maof 262.36 ▼ 1.51%

INTERNATIONAL SHARES

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WORLD MARKET ROUNDOUP

US leads Euroshares to new peaks

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WORLD MARKET ROUNDOUP

US leads Euroshares to new peaks

Oil slides again after last week's fragile recovery

LONDON (Reuters) - Oil prices resumed their downward move yesterday as traders shrugged off last week's tentative recovery in a market that has been in a headlong slide since the turn of the year.

With no shortage of supplies seen in the market remains vulnerable to further falls, especially being in that awkward period when the heating oil season has ended but the gasoline season has yet to take off.

Report on Friday from the West's energy watchdog showed that rich consumer nations emerged from the peak demand season with well stocked oil inventories.

Oil prices resumed their downward move yesterday as traders shrugged off last week's tentative recovery in a market that has been in a headlong slide since the turn of the year.

The Tel Aviv Stock Exchange data were unavailable yesterday due to technical difficulties.

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